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THURSDAY MARCH 19TH, 2020

Pilots voice St Athan Airfield concerns - see page 4

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Couple trapped on board coronavirus-hit ship speak out

By Sam Hall
Reporter
sam.hall@glamorgan-gem co.uk

A COUPLE trapped on board a coronavirus-hit cruise liner for days have praised the ship's staff for looking after them during the crisis.

Tina and Alan Davies, from Barry Island, were forced to stay in their cabin on the *Grand Princess* after 21 fellow passengers and staff tested positive for the virus.

The pair, who booked the holiday to celebrate Tina's 60th birthday, commended the cruise operator and staff onboard for the first-class service they'd received amid the virus outbreak.

Passengers disembarked the ship last Tuesday after being held off the coast of San Francisco in California for days following confirmed coronavirus cases onboard.

Some 130 Brits – including a handful of Welsh residents – were then flown back to the UK on a US federal government plane before being told to self isolate at home for 14 days.

Mr and Mrs Davies, who are both aged 60, admitted they weren't scared of the coronavirus ordeal unfolding around them.

Tina told the Glamorgan Gem this week: "It was fine. We were restricted to our room, but we were treated really well.

"We spent five days in our room with free wifi, all of the TV channels and food being delivered to us."

She added: "It all went quite quickly. The staff were amazing.

"They treated us as best they possibly could given the circumstances."

The couple revealed that they had planned to celebrate Tina's milestone birthday by taking a cruise around Asia, but it had been axed because of the coronavirus outbreak.

They managed to change their booking at short notice and boarded the Hawaii-bound *Grand Princess*, which is operated by Princess.

Tina and Alan Davies, from Barry Island, onboard the virus-hit Grand Princess.

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A word from our editor

WHEN I first started in journalism many years ago I was sent by my editor to cover a regional WI meeting.I found myself sitting next to an elderly lady, who leaned towards me and asked in a loud stage whisper if I was 'the lady from the newspaper'.

Being young and inexperienced and having not realised that it is never wise to admit that you are a journalist, I replied that I was indeed there representing the local press."Oh I do love your paper," she said. "It fits just perfectly in the bottom of my budgie cage!"

I tell this tale often because it illustrated to me from a very early stage in my career that people had many and varied uses for their local newspaper but that the one thing they all had in common was that it was an important part of their weekly routine.

I'd like to think that this common thread will be more vital than ever in the coming weeks and months as we all face up to the challenges brought about by the arrival in Wales of the dreaded Covid19 when our worlds become a lot smaller than they were just a few weeks ago.

We at at the Glamorgan Gem are only too well aware that for all of us the next few weeks or months are going to be challenging, but as your local newspaper we are here to help you keep in contact with your community even if you're stuck indoors.It may be that you have an event you have been forced to cancel or postpone, or maybe you are able to provide a delivery service or just lend a helping hand to a neighbour who isn't able to get out.

Maybe you want to send a birthday wish to a loved one when you can't get out to buy a card or need a challenging crossword to while away an idle hour or two or it could be you just need something for the bottom of the budgie cage…

Whatever it may be if you have something you want everyone to know about please give us here at the Gem a call, or send us an email and we will do our best to tell everyone your news either through our print editions, our well-read online editions or our social media channels.

We know things are going to be challenging for a while but if we all stick together, support each other, look out for our neighbours and support our local businesses we'll all come out the other side.

LIZ DAVIES

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address, contact telephone number. We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

Awareness around fibromyalgia effects

I WOULD like to express my gratitude to the many neighbours in Seys Close who have expressed sympathy and disgust at the recent occurrence of my son Marc's car being intentionally blocked in on Geraint's Way, and the lack of police interest in dealing with parking problems.

I would also like my letter to raise awareness of the effect Fibromyalgia can have on a person's life. Marc struggled to work full time with several jobs including drug and alcohol abuse and anti-smoking charities, and working with young people.

He now only manages a part time position. Fibromyalgia is a condition that causes continuous widespread pain, extreme fatigue, severe IBS, insomnia and cognitive problems.

Most people have either not heard of this condition or fail to realise just how debilitating the condition is.

He has lost the ability to work full time and also friends, who do not understand why he is too exhausted or in too much pain to socialise.

Medication to treat it is mainly ineffective; he has tried many therapies – counselling, acupuncture, massage, homoeopathy. We live in hope that one day a cure will be available.

Sharon George, Cowbridge.

Thanks to all who attended charity evening

THE Sewell extended family and friends recently held a charity social evening at the Barry Island Sports & Social club in aid of the charity Cancer Research UK, and raised a total of £1,213.80.

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who contributed in any way to enable us to raise such an amazing total, and created a fantastic social evening.

Joan Sewell, Barry.

Government must test children for virus

THE government is failing to show any competence in tackling the coronavirus pandemic.

We are not testing sick people for the virus!

Our schools remain open, and there are good arguments for this, as well as for closing them in part or in full. The risks have not been properly considered by the government.

Should a child fall sick, it's left for the parents to decide what action to take, whether to isolate the family and to decide when the child is well enough to return to school.

Sick children are not tested for coronavirus – nor are their parents should they feel unwell. The siblings of sick children are still in attendance at schools.

We need a policy here in Wales so that all children who fall sick are tested immediately. The siblings of a sick child must not attend school until it's confirmed by a doctor that the illness is not coronavirus.

We must adopt the Precautionary Principal in our daily lives – and so too must the decision-makers responsible for the health and welfare of children and their families.

It seems to be only a matter of time before there is a serious outbreak of coronavirus resulting from poor policy decisions related to schools. No child should be in attendance at school when a close family member may be infected.

The WHO are telling nations to test, test and test again for coronavirus – with commentators suggesting that their comments are aimed at the UK. We need to restart community testing. We need to know who has this virus so we can tackle it.

The Welsh Government needs to act now to keep children and their families safe from this virus. It's clear that the NHS is not equipped to deal with this pandemic and government policy is poorly considered and seriously flawed.

Ian Perry, Vale of Glamorgan.

Where's the detail on council tax rises?

MY wife and I have just received our annual notification of State pension increase for the coming year – a combined increase of some £24 for the pair of us.

Hard on the heels of that came our 2020-21 council tax notification. The increase immediately consumed 54 per cent of that small increase.

Whilst individually these are small amounts of money, they do matter when scaled up across the numbers of eligible households in the Vale.

Since 2009-10, my council tax has risen from £38 per month to £50 per month – with no discernible parallel increase in efficiency of service delivery or actual service offerings.

I read, with no little ire, the homily you printed on behalf of the leader of our council which to my eye seemed far too complacent and very low on detail with regard to how the now-ritualised 4.9 per cent rise in council tax was arrived at.

By the way, it was not apologetic in any way that I could read.

Their idea of a council consultation seems akin to asking a condemned man how he'd like to be executed, rather than offering any hope of a reprieve or release!

As the treasurer of a voluntary organisation, I am responsible for the income and expenditure of our group and have a duty to provide our members with a full and open account of our financial status at any time of year it that it may be requested.

When I present the statement of accounts at our AGM I can expect some rigorous examinations of both the state of our bank balance, how income was derived, how monies were spent and a severe cross-examination on any proposals I might make to increase income by upping the subscriptions!

Yet our Council think they can get away with a few glib lines in a piece in a local newspaper.

There is no effort to explain the details of eg, the increase in the block grant from the Welsh Assembly Government – how much it was in money terms, where it will be allocated and how those allocations will impact the council tax bills of residents.

While many people may not care or be in a situation to see this as important, it is.

This is money either raised as a direct tax from us or allocated from central funds to help sustain OUR communities.

Management of the monies the Council holds – on our behalves – is not a sinecure or privilege of election but is a duty on behalf of the communities the council is, allegedly, there to serve.

Can the council not provide a simple breakdown, as outlined above, on its website; so that those of us who are interested in where our taxes are spent can clearly see?

Or, perish the thought, maybe our leader could publish that in The GEM instead of the complacent, self-publicising drivel we usually see.

Nick Meyrick, Barry

Churches services will not take place

CHURCH services and gatherings of public worship should no longer take place, say the Bishops of the Church in Wales in their latest guidance for clergy in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

They also say all weddings planned before the end of July should be postponed, baptisms should take place in small gatherings of no more than 10 people, and funerals only be conducted at the graveside or crematoria.

Confirmation services scheduled between now and June are to be postponed.

Church buildings, however, can remain open as places of prayer and contemplation.

Their advice in a Pastoral Declaration follows the latest advice from the Government calling for all non-essential social contact.

It includes advice for caring for people in the community.

In a Pastoral Declaration, the Bishops say: "At such a time as this, and during this holy season of Lent, we are mindful of the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life for his sheep.

"We are holding all who are anxious, all who are unwell, and all who are grieving in our prayers, asking that the presence of the risen Christ may be near to us, wherever we may be, throughout the difficult months ahead.

"We are issuing this pastoral declaration in light of new governmental advice on Coronavirus (COVID-19).

"On the evening of Monday, March 16, 2020, the Prime Minister advised that all non-essential social contact and all unnecessary travel should cease.

During questions in the House of Commons, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care confirmed that the guidance relating to non-essential social contact includes faith groups and religious gatherings."

Read the Bishops' full declaration here *https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/clergy-and-members/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance/*

HIGH TIDE TIMES

The high tides listed in this week's Gem are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tides times will vary. For instance, in Barry the high point will be 20-25 minutes later.

UNTIL MARCH 26

Date	Time	Height (metres)
19/03/2020	02.44	7.5
19/03/2020	15.28	7.7
20/03/2020	03.58	8.2
20/03/2020	16.34	8.3
21/03/2020	04.55	8.5
21/03/2020	17.18	8.8
22/03/2020	05.37	9.0
22/03/2020	17.57	9.2
23/03/2020	06.14	9.3
23/03/2020	18.32	9.5
24/03/2020	06.47	9.6
24/03/2020	18.59	9.6
25/03/2020	07.18	9.8
25/03/2020	19.31	9.7
26/03/2020	07.47	9.6
26/03/2020	19.58	9.4

While the Gem makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

The Glamorgan GEM • Contact us...

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Couple praise staff on board coronavirus-hit cruise liner

By Sam Hall
Reporter
sam.hall@glamorgan-gem co.uk

TINA stressed that Princess went above and beyond to look after passengers, with medical supplies being flown in by helicopter and boats delivering food once the ship's stock ran out.

One passenger, who is battling cancer, was airlifted off the ship and taken to American soil.

All of the passengers were kept up-to-date with the coronavirus situation by the the ship's captain, the cruise operator, and the British Embassy.

Princess has given the couple a full refund of the £2,900 cruise, all of the excursions they had booked and the money they spent on board.

"We had a free holiday and got all of our money back," the couple joked.

The cruise ship operator paid for all of the Brits, who landed at Birmingham Airport last Wednesday evening, to get a taxi home and supplied them with food for the journey.

Tina revealed that Princess also gave all of the passengers welcome home cards and food hampers because they would be forced to stay indoors for a fortnight.

"We could not fault the staff or Princess at all," Mr and Mrs Davies said.

They added: "This did not spoil our holiday and it certainly has not put us off from cruising in the future – we have another one booked for June.

"This was the first time we used Princess and it will not be the last."

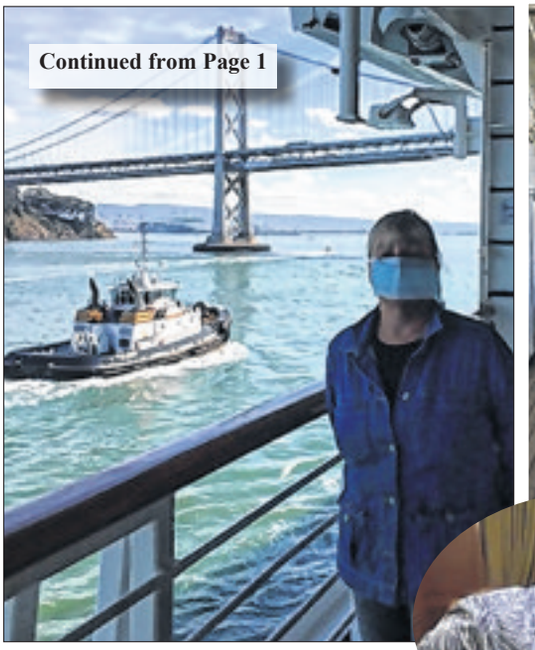
The couple, who returned to their Barry Island home during the early hours of last Thursday morning, were still waiting for coronavirus test results at the time this newspaper went to press.

A spokesman for Princess said: "We would like to thank guests for their patience and support during their time on the *Grand Princess*.

"This has been an incredibly challenging period and our crew members have worked tirelessly to ensure that guests received the best possible service.

"We are pleased that both guests and crew are now back in the UK."

Continued from Page 1



Tina and Alan, pictured above, donning face masks on board the vessel.

Pictured left is the coronavirus-hit Grand Princess cruise ship.

Rabbits dumped in shopping trolley

The rabbits which were found in a shop trolly and a crisp packet

THREE rabbits have been found dumped at a Morrisons supermarket in Barry.

RSPCA Cymru was alerted shortly after a member of the public reported finding the rabbits on March 10 at the Waterfront Retail Park in the Vale town.

Two of the rabbits were found inside a supermarket trolley, with a third in a crisp box placed in the trolley.

Nothing in the boxes gave any clues as to who owns the rabbits, where they came from, and none of the three were microchipped.

The rabbits were taken to a nearby Pets at Home store, who contacted the RSPCA – prompting the launch of an appeal for information.

Fortunately, the rabbits are not in particularly poor condition – although they had very overgrown nails, which was preventing one from walking properly. One of the rabbits was also underweight.

RSPCA inspector Sophie Daniels said: "It beggars belief anyone would think it acceptable to dump three helpless rabbits in a supermarket trolley. A member of the public has reported finding them, and quickly took them to a nearby Pets at Home store. We're grateful to the store for contacting us and agreeing to rehome the rabbits. RSPCA Cymru is eager to find out what happened to these poor rabbits, and where they came from. It is thought these rabbits were abandoned on the morning of March 10, and anyone with information is urged to contact our inspectorate appeal line on 0300 123 8018."

To help the RSPCA continue rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming animals in desperate need, you can donate online.

Many owners are concerned about caring for their pets amid the Coronavirus – or Covid-19 – outbreak. The RSPCA has published a guest blog by animal welfare expert Dr Samantha Gaines on how to look after your pets if you're unwell or having to self-isolate.

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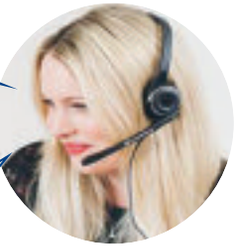

Victoria Gallagher
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Limited hours are 'killing' airfield

Mr Pitman and Mr Johns show Ms Hut their aircraft. Right is Mr Johns with Ms Hutt

By Ariane Hill
Reporter
ariane@glamorgan-gem co.uk

PILOTS have said that limited opening hours at St Athan Airfield is "killing" its aviation businesses.

St Athan Airfield, home to a 1.8 kilometre runway and the South Wales Aviation Museum, is meant to be open seven days a week.

However, the airfield, which is on Cardiff's doorstep, has only been open from Monday to Friday since April last year when the Welsh Government took it over from the military despite publishing an Airfield Strategic Plan when it took over St Athan Airfield which said it would "maximise opportunities" to make it a "centre of excellence".

Service provider Serco, which is contracted by the Welsh Government to run the airfield, including providing air traffic control, says it can only staff the airfield on weekdays due to "limited resources".

Recreational flyers David Pitman, from Rhymney, and Gavin Johns, from Miskin, co-own a Cessna 172 small aircraft called G-NEEE (pronounced Genie) which they keep at St Athan.

Mr Pitman said: "It's killing us basically - in two ways. If it's not open on the weekends then we can't fly on the weekends and we're both very busy in our working lives.

"One of the challenges around flying is that you have to be current, not like driving a car. Can you imagine if you only drove a car for 20 hours a year imagine how good you'd be after four or five years, you're probably not that good. So, with aviation you have to be as current as you possibly can and there's 28 day and 90 day rules."

Mr Pitman said the difference between being current and proficient is that they are proficient in as much as they're qualified pilots and tested, but currency is what "really keeps you alive".

He said: "So the lack of being able to get at this aircraft when we want to fly this aircraft is a real issue, a real issue for us. And it's not just us, we just represent a whole group."

If Mr Pitman and Mr Johns want to fly the G-NEEE they have to take time off work for it to fit in with their lives.

Mr Johns said: "You've got to use your holiday, so you can't fly on the weekend and when the weather's bad, you can't fly in the evenings because we work 9-5 days and the airfield shuts at 5, so the only other option you can move it to Cardiff.

"That's thing, being it's effecting us, the currency thing is a safety issue because if you're not current you're dangerous so that's the biggest concern."

The two pilots said they are reluctant to move from St Athan, not just through loyalty, but also because of the amount of time it takes to move between airports and because they enjoy the facilities at St Athan such as the hanger facility, the on-site maintenance and the runway which is over a mile long.

As well as having Aston Martin down the road, the airfield is also home to Iron Maiden lead singer Bruce Dickinson's air company Caerdav and it attracts visitors for one-trip flight experiences which have been bought for them as gifts – often the way in for a lot of people who start flying recreationally.

As well as private pilots and businesses, the site is also home to trainee pilots, trainee ground control staff and engineers.

However the two pilots said the fly school at the site, which is where Mr Johns learnt to fly, is suffering the consequences of only being open during the week.

Mr Johns said there is a social scene around the airfield, and that a group of about seven or eight aircrafts often go on small trips to areas like Kemble Airfield, in the Cotswolds, and Barmouth Airfield in north Wales.

He said: "That takes money to the local area and we want St Athan to be on the other end of that. People from other airfields coming here – fly in, go to the aviation museum, go the village, have a bit of lunch, fly out – everyone who would visit would bring a couple of hundred quid to the area and create a few jobs and then the airfield gets a reputation as a good place to go.

"It would be in the same way I talk about Kemble, which is Cotswold airport, everybody goes to it and goes 'oh the food's really good and there's a real buzz about the place' and what happens is you get a lot of non-aviation people who go there's a lot of bikers out on a Sunday afternoon ride and they'll meet and watch the air crafts coming in and out because it's something interesting and that's really what you want to get here.

"To bring people into the Vale, bring people to the airport, go to the museum, there's a restaurant there as well so they can go there and have a cup of tea and watch the aircraft movements, but none of this can happen unless you can fly in an out, it all starts and ends with that really."

Mr Pitman added: "It's not just about flying, it really feels weird - rich boys talking about flying, but it's not like that. It's the overall effect it has on the economy."

The two pilots said that while they are loyal to the airfield, if things don't change they will be forced to move.

Speaking about her visit, Labour AM Ms Hutt said: "I saw the fantastic range of planes owned by pilots who use the Hangars to park their planes where they are maintained and protected alongside the pilots training schools on site.

"It is vital that we move these ventures forward to secure 7 day use of the runway and airfield and I will be discussing the potential as well as practicalities of achieving this with the Minister for Economy and Transport."

The contract which is currently provided by the new airfield management contractor will end as of Tuesday, March 31 – less than two weeks away – when it will be taken over by global airline giant NATS as an extension of the Cardiff Airport contract.

A Serco spokesman said: "As is well recognised in the flying community, there is a national shortage of Air Traffic Controllers. Against this background it was evident that the airfield could not operate seven days a week so a contingency plan was put in place which meant a five day operation.

"There has been an offer to pilots to operate from Cardiff airport, but this has only been partially taken up even though the offer was made last summer."

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Bridgend County Borough Council leader's warning on services as all meetings are cancelled

THE leader of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has said the local authority is to focus its resources on the delivery of essential services amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Cllr Huw David said the council would prioritise services for the most vulnerable residents and the council would ensure everyone was as informed as possible with advice and necessary measures.

He said: "We are facing an unprecedented situation around the rapid escalation of coronavirus.

"We want to reassure residents that, in collaboration with our partners, all necessary steps will be taken to support the well-being of our communities as much as possible.

"We have put in place a range of additional measures to comply immediately with the most recent government advice.

"While we will seek to try and maintain the delivery of as many public services as possible, it is already clear that we will not be able to deliver everything that we normally do, and that moving forward, we will need to focus our resources on a smaller number of essential services for however long the current situation prevails.

"Where possible and together with our partners and volunteers, additional services are being put in place to serve those who have been advised to self- isolate.

"We ask for the understanding of residents that unfortunately, it will not be possible to undertake 'normal' business for a sustained period of time. There will be inevitable delays in responding to some queries and dealing with day-to-day matters." As from Tuesday, March 17, the local authority has cancelled all council meetings in the chamber and committee rooms.

Cllr David said: "This cancellation period will apply until Thursday, April 9, to give us time to reconsider the matter in the event of any significant changes. However, it may be necessary to extend that period beyond this date.

"At times like this, elected members play an even more important role as community leaders by providing a conduit between residents and the council, and helping to ensure that they are kept informed and stay calm.

"Due to the speed at which things are changing, we urge our residents to keep a close eye on our Facebook and Twitter pages, and our website, for the latest news.

"This will follow on from the national guidance issued by both the UK Government and the Welsh Government.

"Across both the council and our partner organisations, all staff are working incredibly hard to ensure that our level of preparedness is as advanced as it can be.

"We have plans to redeploy staff as necessary with fast-tracked training in place to support priority areas.

"These are very challenging times, we would like to thank our staff and all those in our communities, especially our volunteers, clubs and organisations, for their continued understanding, their incredible work and offers of support.

"Please rest assured we remain vigilant, adaptable and ready to implement contingency arrangements which will ensure the continued delivery of essential services."

Anyone wishing to volunteer to help in the coming weeks is asked to contact the Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations by visiting https://bridgend.volunteering-wales.net/vk/volunteers/my_opportunities_info_ur.htm?pid=10155682 or calling 01656 810400.

Organisations can post their volunteering vacancies here: https://bridgend.volunteering-wales.net/vk/volunteers/index.htm

For medical advice on coronavirus visit the websites for Public Health Wales, the Welsh Government and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board.

Cat trapped between two walls is home

By Ariane Hill
Reporter
arianel@glamorgan-gem co.uk

A CAT which had a lucky escape from being trapped between two walls is now safely back at home with her family.

The black and white cat, called Max, had became stuck after she squeezed into a gap between two walls which measures three inches.

The moggy, who was described by the RSPCA as "extremely frightened and cold" was freed from the narrow gap with the help of the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service last Monday, March 9.

Max could only move her head when she was reported to the animal welfare and rescue charity at 7.30am on Monday.

Firefighters, with the permission of the homeowners, knocked through the wall of one of the garages to rescue Max.

RSCPA inspector Sophia Daniels said at the time: "This cat was certainly well and truly stuck and could only move her head.

"I could reach my hands to her, but there was no room to get her out at all. You could she was extremely frightened and cold, and we had to act fast.

"The fire service were excellent and with the homeowner's permission, they removed bricks from the garage to release her."

She added: "They had to make quite a lot of noise right next to her which did cause her distress as she was shaking, but once she was out, I immediately scooped her up and took her to the vet for treatment, where she was placed on a heated blanket."

Ms Daniels thanked the fire service as well as the homeowners who alerted them to Max and allowed them to knock through the garage wall.

Max is now home with her owner Jane Kerr in Sully who said she had let the moggy outside that morning. After a visit to the vet, Max was revealed to be in need of IV fluids but otherwise healthy following blood tests.

Following Max's ordeal, which left her shaken, the RSCPA started a campaign to find Jane as the moggy wasn't microchipped.

However, Jane said she believed Max was chipped – she said she thought the cat had been microchipped at the same time as she had been neutered, as that's what had happened with all of her other cats.

The cat was reunited with Jane following an extensive social media campaign, before Jane had to prove she was the owner to the RSPCA. Jane, who has since revealed that Max belongs to her daughter, booked Max in at her local vet – Vale Vet Centre – where she was microchipped last week.

Owner Jane with Max; inset is when she was stuck between the two walls, and left is the hole in one of the walls after they freed the moggy.

Pupils win chance to make chocolates

FOUR pupils from Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig won the chance to create their own chocolate in Cocoa Therapy.

Every pupil from year four created new chocolate designs and the owner of Cocoa Therapy in Barry chose the winners, who then travelled to the shop to create their designs. The chocolates varied from popping candy and mint to marshmallows and caramel chocolate. They will receive 32 of their own chocolates.

Year four's theme last term was Roald Dahl, where they learned about Charlie and the Chocolate Factory among other Roald Dahl books. All pupils from the year had the chance to visit Cocoa Therapy to find out how the chocolate is made.

The pupils said: "We enjoyed painting the moulds carefully and discovering how to make the chocolates."

F1 enterprise project at Pencoed schools

THE 'F1 in Schools' social enterprise project provides a challenging educational experience for students and school children from across the country.

Teams must raise sponsorship and manage budgets to cover all costs including research, travel and accommodation. Participating pupils are inspired to use IT to learn about physics, aerodynamics, design, manufacture, branding, marketing, and many other skills.

Pencoed Comprehensive School's F1 team who are currently celebrating the success of their project 'Nemesis Inferno', held a demonstration event to present their new 'F1 in Schools' track, donated by Bridgend College.

Sponsors and partners of the project, along with many other guests including local AM Huw Irranca-Davies were invited along to hear all about the project and its success. Speaking after the event Mr Irranca-Davies said: "It was a great pleasure to join the students and staff of Pencoed School in their celebrations and to see the great new F1 track donated by Bridgend College. The students and staff have clearly worked hard to see their 'Nemesis Inferno' win at this stage of the competition and I wish them all the best for the future heats.

"It is also good to see the development of STEM skills in young women and a bonus to see them winning on the track and in their enterprise skills too. Well done."

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Fashion show

THE Barry Friends of Tenovus Committee are holding a fashion show in conjunction with the Edinburgh Woollen Mill, on Wednesday, April 8 at 7pm, in the Sully Indoor Bowls Club, South Road, Sully CF64 5SP.

Tickets are £5 each from Mary Thomas on 01446 733978; Beryl Holmes on 01446 408420; Gill Latham on 07929 948819; Edinburgh Woollen Mill, Penarth on 02920 709573.

For further information on Tenovus Cancer Care, visit www.tenovuscancercare.org.uk.

Bridgend PACT

MAESTEG East, Maesteg West and Llangynwyd PACT public meeting will be held at Cwm Calon Day Centre on Thursday, April 23 at 6pm.

Llangeinor PACT public meeting will be held at Llangeinor Football Club, Llangeinor on Tuesday, May 12 at 7pm.

New festival date

THE postponed St David's Festival featuring local male voice choir, Cor Meibion Y Machlud, and the school choir from Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant, has now been re-arranged for Friday, April 24, at the original venue, St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major.

The tickets for the original performance are still valid, and further tickets, or refunds, can be obtained from the original sources, Nickleby's Bookshop, Llantwit Major, Barnes Dry Cleaners in Cowbridge, from the church or school themselves, or by contacting the box office on 01446 795314.

Film shows cancelled

FILM shows at Cowbridge Town Hall organised by Big Screen will be cancelled until further notice due to coronavirus precautions.

From the farm to your plate - Forage farm shop is coming to Cowbridge

A NEW venture will be opening soon in Cowbridge – or to be exact, just outside in Penllyn Estate Farm.

Forage Farm Shop and Kitchen aims to offer customers the opportunity to buy high quality, seasonal food – much of it from the estate itself.

There will also be a broad range of local producers also supplying the restaurant and shop.

Access to the shop and kitchen will be from the new roundabout on the A48.

A spokeswoman for Forage said: "Our mission is to provide fresh, delicious produce in a beautiful, newly-constructed setting.

"Menus will be refreshed regularly, with the head chef and butcher collaborating to design plates based on seasonal availability. The restaurant will serve breakfast and lunch, as well as teatime treats, with the bar serving Coaltown Coffee roasted and packed in Ammanford, and a range of other drinks.

"The shop will boast an exceptional butcher's counter, seasonal vegetables grown on the estate, eggs from the resident brood of free-range hens, a bakery, and over 2,000 lines of food, drink and other wares.

"Customers looking to purchase high quality ingredients will be able to seek advice and information from the staff, including the in-house butcher and chefs, on anything from recipes to food traceability.

"Designed by an award-winning architect to blend into the surrounding landscape, the timber-structured building is clad in Siberian larch and sits alongside a recently-planted truffle orchard.

"Overlooking the Thaw valley, the restaurant provides a beautiful location to enjoy a drink, light bite or something more substantial. With community at the heart of the Forage ethos, the intention is to provide a space welcome to everyone, whether meeting friends, colleagues or enjoying a family day out. Children can burn off energy in the outdoor play area visible from the restaurant."

The estate manager, Damien Burnell added: "This whole project is an opportunity to celebrate our local area. From the construction team to our future customers, via the myriad producers working with us, it has been an opportunity to engage with the community at multiple levels. We look forward to championing Glamorgan as a fantastic destination in its own right."

The opening hours for both the shop and kitchen will be 8.30am to 5.30pm (Monday to Saturday), and 9.30am to 4pm on Sunday.

The Penllyn Estate Farm is owned and managed by the Homfray family, and the new venture has been an ambition for some time. It was 19 years ago that plans were submitted to the local authority, but various obstacles stopped it from becoming a reality. Striving for zero waste, reducing food miles and avoiding single use plastics wherever possible will be high on the agenda at Forage.

Villagers plan clean ups

ANYONE walking or cycling around the Vale can hardly fail to notice the amount of litter in the hedgerows and road verges, especially at this time of year.

This caused some of the villagers of Aberthin to take matters into their own hands – well, litter picking sticks.

A small group with a wide age range spent just an hour picking litter around the village using approved bags provided by the Vale Council offices. In that hour, we filled no less than six bags, which will now be collected by our contact at the Vale Council.

Although possibly not the most exciting way of spending part of your Sunday afternoon, we have decided to repeat the exercise monthly.

We noticed the appreciative wave from passing motorists and can only hope that this small token of 'community service' may result in less rubbish being thrown out of cars, and maybe persuade others to start similar schemes in their own immediate environment.

MB

The villagers with the collected litter in Aberthin

Sue's follow up to debut novel

GLAMOROUS motorcycling granny Sue McDonagh is set to ride the charts again with the latest book in her best-selling Gower-set 'Art Cafe' series.

Meet Me at the Art Cafe, published by women's fiction publisher, Choc Lit, will be released in paperback on March 10.

It follows Sue's bestselling debut book, *Summer at the Art Cafe*.

Sue, who rides her motorbike with two replacement hips (replaced at an unusually early age she stresses with a smile - 'think Andy Murray'), lives in Llantwit Major and has a studio in the Wool Barn, Cowbridge.

She told The GEM that the two books came out of a writing exercise, where she had to write 50,000 words in a month. That meant about 1,700 a day, and it got her into the habit.

She said: "When I re-read it, I wasn't at all happy so I did several re-writes. Eventually, I submitted it to Choc Lit, and they asked if I had anything else. I told them that I was working on a second book, set in the same area but with different main characters, and they said that if that was of a similar standard, they would give me a two-book deal."

Her publishers were, indeed, happy with the book, and book one was well received. Now, book two is just published.

There's little surprise that '*Meet Me at the Art Cafe*' features a motorbike – and also the area Sue knows and loves so well. Her beautiful descriptions of the Gower Peninsula are winning over fans in the same way as her wonderful stories and fabulously witty and touching characterisations.

Sue has lived in Llantwit Major since the 1980s, after being invalided out of the police force at 24 following a diagnosis of ovarian cancer. These days, as well as writing best-sellers, she is a successful portrait artist, working from her studio at Cowbridge and, as with her books, finding inspiration in the natural wildness of the area's landscape and coastline.

Sue began riding motorcycles in 2009 and now helps run Curvy Riders – a national women only motorbike club.

Sue will also be taking part in filming for ITV's *The Motorbike Show*. Sue and fellow members of Curvy Riders will be chatting and riding with presenter, Henry Cole, in and around Tintern Abbey.

Meet Me at The Art Cafe is released in paperback on 10 March and is available from all good bookstores and online retailers. Further information can be found at *www.choc-lit.com*

In Wales, her love of art evolved into a full-time occupation and she made a living teaching and sketching portraits at shows. In 2014 she was a regional finalist for the Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the Year.

She now works exclusively to commissions from her art gallery.

Llantwit Major mark VE Day anniversary

ON Friday, May 8 at 3pm 'Toast the Heroes' will take place in pubs and around the square in Llantwit Major.

Winston Churchill's speech will be played across the cenotaph and in local pubs. At 7pm a 1940s-style dance will take place at the rugby club, including music, fancy dress and food from the era. On Saturday, May 9 a children's street party will be held on Wine Street, Llantwit Major including fancy dress. At 4pm the MoD will host games at the recreation ground for the older children and on Sunday a service at St Illtud's Church, followed by one at the Cenotaph.

Tractor Road Run

MILE after mile of tractors will be turning out in the roads around the Vale of Glamorgan this Easter Sunday.

The event attracts enthusiasts from all over the UK and the Glamorgan event is to be hosted by Wayne Griffiths at Llanilid Farm, Pencoed. Several hundred tractors will travel a 26 mile round trip from Llanilid, through a host of villages, stopping for lunch at Sealands Farm, Wick.

The aim is to raise £20,000 for two charities: Wales Air Ambulance and Marie Curie. Those wanting to take part should submit their application as soon as possible for inclusion in the official programme, they will then receive a welcome pack

Conservatives slam Vale's tax increase

Vale Conservatives leader, Cllr Bailey

CONSERVATIVES on the Vale Council slammed last week's announcement of an "inflation busting" 4.9 per cent council tax rise after the Labour-Vale Independent coalition's motion was approved by a majority of councillors.

The Leader of the Vale Conservatives, Cllr Vincent Bailey, called the rise a "massive blow to hard pressed residents", and criticised other parties for refusing to back his proposed 1.8 per cent rise, which would be in line with inflation.

Cllr Bailey proposed an amendment to the revenue budget at the council meeting which called for the use of an additional £2.2million from reserves.

However, the amendment was rejected, after Labour and Vale Independent councillors voted against.

Cllr Bailey said the hike came despite the council having received an extra £6.6 million this year from Welsh Government - more than enough to freeze council tax entirely.

He said: "This is a hammer blow for hard-pressed residents, and there's simply no justification for it whatsoever.

"In recent years the Vale has been under-funded by Welsh Government, but this year saw an additional £6.6 million - enough to keep council tax in line with inflation, and to support under pressure services.

"We cannot allow massive hikes in council tax to become the norm, and whilst there are times that the public can accept paying a little more, we don't believe that the current context justifies a hike of 4.9 per cent."

"As a one-off, I proposed using some of this extra money to ease the pressure on hard pressed council taxpayers.

"This would have resulted in a small council tax rise of 1.8 per cent. Unfortunately, this was blocked by Labour and the Vale Independent Group - all of whom were elected as Conservatives, promising to keep council tax fair.

"They have betrayed their local communities, and their spineless support of Labour's council tax hike will be punished at the ballot box in two years time."

Community transport charity appeals for volunteers

EAST Vale Community Transport (EVCT) has been serving the community of the eastern Vale for almost 25 years.

The trustees of the charity are seeking volunteers to assist passengers. Based in Penarth, EVCT offers door-to-door transport in two wheelchair-friendly minibuses: people who might not otherwise get out can go shopping, attend lunches, or go on other trips. Some passengers need a helping hand.

If you could spare some time to help, contact the EVCT office on 02920 705138 or email enquiries@evct.org.uk. The office is staffed part-time but we will get in touch. Training will be given and volunteers can choose regular assignments or occasional help. Most trips are in daytime.

Drivers with a clean licence aged 25 – 69 are welcome, and anyone who could offer help as a

Vale schools gain Welsh accolade

ELEVEN schools in the Vale were recently presented with the Welsh Language Charter Award at a ceremony at the All Nations Centre.

The Cymraeg Campus Language Charter was designed by 'Education Through Regional Working' to develop the Welsh language in schools in the Vale and consists of three awards: bronze, silver and gold – or efydd, arian and aur. Schools aim to complete the awards over three-years. Ysgol Dewi Sant, Ysgol Sant Baruc, Ysgol Pen y Garth and Ysgol Bro Morgannwg all gained the silver 'arian' award.

St David's Church in Wales, Albert Primary, Cogan Primary, Dinas Powys Primary, Fairfield Primary, Cowbridge Primary and Colcot Primary schools gained the bronze 'efydd' award.

Cllr Lis Burnett praised the schools involved: "It's brilliant to see staff and pupils at our English medium schools embrace the Welsh language in this way, demonstrating their commitment to an understanding of the Welsh language and culture."

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Bryntirion students' 'Dragons' Den' event is a huge success

YEAR-10 students at Bryntirion Comprehensive wowed a panel of judges at the school's recent Dragons' Den!

The KS4 Enterprise and Employability Challenge was organised by the Welsh Baccalaureate Department in collaboration with Velindre Cancer Centre, Careers Wales and Big Ideas Wales.

For the challenge, the students developed a new service, product or event to support Velindre, which is based in Cardiff. They presented their business pitches in small teams in December in front of a range of employers and business people.

At the Grand Final, 86 students pitched their business to a panel of dragons from Velindre in a packed sports hall with parents, governors, teachers and business people all watching.

We would like to thank everyone who made the Velindre Challenge a big success.

Mr Rowe

Woody's Lodge gets grant from Forces fund

THE Armed Forces charity, Woody's Lodge, has been awarded two major Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust grants through 'Positive Pathways' and 'Removing Barriers to Family Life'.

The two grants will allow the charity to develop its work across Wales over the next two years. The grants are an opportunity for Woody's Lodge to deliver even more support for veterans of the armed forces and emergency services, as well as their families.

It also allows the charity to extend their services beyond their two sites across Wales.

The first grant will be used to support Woody's Lodge work and to develop their new family farm centre in Ceredigion Farm.

They will also be working with The Wye Forward to offer respite for armed forces families in the Hay-on-Wye area. The charity is transforming itself into supporting the wider family; not just the families of veterans, but also the families of those serving with the armed forces.

The second grant will enable the charity to develop and extend its reach across Wales and to deliver and support wider family initiatives. It also enables Woody's Lodge to work more closely with partners such as the NHS, Veteran Mental Health Services, Change Step, SSCE Cymru, and TGP.

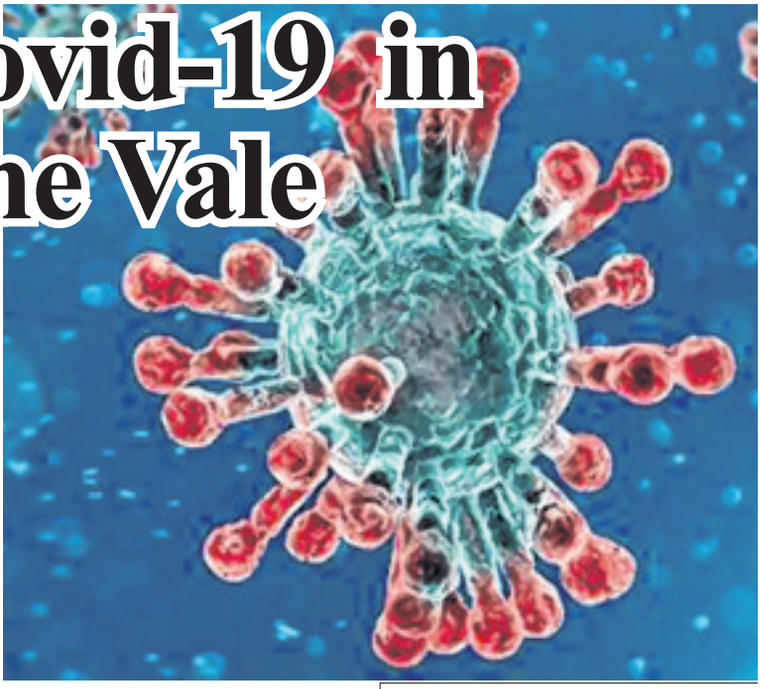
Woody's Lodge CEO, Dr David Trotman, said: "It is an incredible opportunity for us to deliver more support for the armed forces families, not only at the Amelia Trust Farm and with our partners here, but it will also allow us to extend our services right across Wales."

Woody's Lodge is a communications and social hub for veterans of the armed forces and emergency services, along with their families.

Woody's Lodge has two bases in Wales; one at Amelia Trust Farm, Barry and one at Erias Park, Colwyn Bay. In addition, it has several satellite offices across Wales.

Woody's Lodge is also a partner in Project 360° alongside Age Cymru and Age Alliance Wales. The partnership enables the Lodge to work alongside the partners to improve support services for older veterans across Wales.

The latest on Covid-19 in Bridgend and the Vale



Schools are set to close as holiday is brought forward

SCHOOLS will be shutting all over Wales as a result of a decision by the Welsh Government to bring forward the Easter holidays.

The decision was announced on Wednesday, March 18, by the Minister for Education, Kirsty Williams AM.

She said: "Today, I can announce we are bringing forward the Easter break for schools in Wales. Schools across Wales will close for statutory provision of education at the latest on March 20.

"I have been clear up to now that the continuity of education and the wellbeing of our learners has been at the heart of my decision making. This will always be the case.

"From next week, schools will have a new purpose. They will help support those most in need, including people involved in the immediate response to the coronavirus outbreak. I am working with my colleagues in the cabinet, with government officials and our partners in local government to develop and finalise these plans.

"The key areas we are looking at are supporting and safeguarding the vulnerable and ensuring continuity of learning. We are looking in detail at how we can support and safeguard all those who benefit from free school meals and children with additional learning needs.

"While this will apply to schools, childcare settings are expected to remain open until we have definitive advice from the Chief Medical Officer and from Public Health Wales that any closures are required. Parents can, and should, speak with their usual childcare providers if they need care over the Easter holidays

"I have discussed my intentions with the Leader of the Welsh Local Government Association, Andrew Morgan, who reflects the views of local authorities. Some school staff will likely have an important role to play in this.

"We are working closely with our key stakeholders to look at what this will look like for both education and childcare settings, including Flying Start. This position will of course evolve over the coming days and will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

"One of the critical decisions that we will seek to clarify with urgency is that of the forthcoming examinations. I am also working with Qualifications Wales and the WJEC about this year's exam series. In line with all education ministers across the UK, I will be making a further announcement shortly."

Laura Doel, director of the teachers' union, NAHT Cymru, said: "NAHT Cymru welcomes the announcement by Education Minister Kirsty Williams to close all schools.

"Details of how we can support vulnerable children and children of key workers are yet to be finalised, but school leaders and teachers will want to be part of the national response.

"Schools play a pivotal role as part of the social fabric of our communities and we will work with Welsh Government to make sure the support systems are in place to ensure key workers can remain in work.

"School leaders have been under immense pressure in recent days and have worked tirelessly to support their staff, their pupils and their families. As committed public servants they will want to continue to play their part during these times of uncertainty.

"As a union, we will continue to work with Welsh Government to ensure that we all fulfil our civic duty to keep Wales open."

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Local shop makes offer to reserve items for elderly

A SHOP in Pontyclun is offering the chance for elderly or vulnerable customers to reserve items or have them delivered in the wake of Covid-19.

Staff at the Co-Op, which is based on the main road through the village, said that following Prime Minister Boris Johnson's recent speech, they had come up with the idea for the service for the elderly, disabled and pregnant.

In an online post, a spokeswoman for the shop on Llantrisant Road said: "In light of the prime minister's recent speech regarding new measures to slow the spread of Covid-19, the staff from Pontyclun Co-op have decided to start reserving essential items for anyone who is over 70, pregnant or disabled.

"We'd also be happy to deliver a few bits and bobs to anyone in dire need in Pontyclun or Talbot Green.

"If you are in need of essentials or know someone who is, then feel free to drop me a private message or call the store on 01443 238018.

"Obviously as a small store we have very limited stock and resources, but we will try our best to make sure no one goes without. Stay safe everyone!"

The post has since received around 300 reacts online, around 50 shares and various people commenting in support or asking for items to be reserved.

Iceland in Bridgend is also doing more to help elderly and vulnerable customers as it set aside the first two hours of yesterday morning, Wednesday, March 18.

Customers of the state pension age or who are disabled were able to complete their regular grocery shop with some increased safety due to less crowding.

Councillors' offer to elderly residents

VALE of Glamorgan county councillors have asked that any elderly residents who cannot rely on loved ones for help during the Covid-19 pandemic to contact them.

With the imminent proposal by the UK Government to isolate residents over the age of 70 due to the strain of Coronavirus, Sully, Cosmeston and Lavernock councillors Kevin Mahoney and Bob Penrose have issued a call for any elderly residents within their ward without family, neighbours or a friend support network, who may experience difficulty accessing food or medical supplies over the forthcoming period due to self isolation, to contact them.

If any residents have concerns over elderly neighbours or friends struggling without help, contact Kevin Mahoney on01446 746671 or 0775 398 7209, or Bob Penrose on 07701 372 568.

Contact details are also available from the Vale Council contact centre which is on 01446 700111.

Cosmeston group postpones meeting

A public meeting by the 'Keep Cosmeston Green group has had to be postponed as Covid-19 continues to escalate.

The group, which has been formed to fight concreting over the Lower Cosmeston farm site, have postponed the meeting on Thursday, March 26.

A group spokesman, said: "Clearly people's health is at the forefront of our priorities and given the current circumstances we have decided to postpone our advertised meeting."

"Our leaflets and posters advertising the meeting have already gone out which of course still alert the local public that there is an organisation to support. Complete with contact links for current and future reference. It is thought we may well proceed in the immediate future with video casts outlining our concerns and aims. We would ask anyone who feels that they would like to contribute to the cause to get in touch".

Updates are available by calling 02920 711458 by visiting at *www.Keepcosmestongreen.com*

Meet the centre which supports carers in Bridgend

The centre likes to treat the carers: above is young carers visiting a Ninja Warrior arena, right is an arts and crafts session, below left is the young carers going gokarting and right is the young carers going paintballing. Below centre is a line-dancing session

Bridgend Carers Centre provide an essential service to carers in the Bridgend area. Reporter Ariane spoke with a member of the centre to find out more

A CHARITY in Bridgend is looking to end isolation among carers in the area.

Bridgend Carers Centre, which is on Park Street, has been running for over 20 years – since 1999 – and it has been an established charity since 2008.

In that time, it has been the Centre's mission to provide information and support to carers in the community, both emotionally and practically, giving them some precious time to relax and enjoy themselves.

A spokewoman for the centre said: "A very large percentage, about five out of seven, of the trustees are carers or former carers and most of the staff as well; which means the support comes from a lot of lived experience."

The 2011 Census revealed there were 370,000 carers in Wales alone at the time – this will have increased due to an ageing population.

In the Bridgend area there are around 18,000 carers, but less than 20% of them receive support services.

According to the Welsh Government, 96% of annual care in Wales is unpaid and people who don't recognise themselves as carers are missing out on vital support available.

Many carers experience loneliness and isolation as a result of their responsibilities, especially if they've had to give up their job to become a full time carer – which could also in turn have an impact on the their finances.

Bridgend Carers Centre, as well as providing emotional support, offers respite for carers and a chance for them take part in a variety of activities such as weekly yoga and tai-chi classes.

The centre also provides specific support for different groups of carers such as veterans and young adults/carers.

The spokeswoman said: "We provide lots of information to help lessen the impact of being a carer, and support to navigate what can be a complex system of health and social care services. Our welfare benefits advice is always in high demand and has raised almost £2m for carers in the area in unclaimed benefits."

As the population ages, the expectation for unpaid care is increasing and so is the impact on individual carers: financially, emotionally and socially.

The centre, which supported almost 1,000 newly identified carers in Bridgend last year, said that early identification of carers and support intervention can help to mitigate negative effects substantially.

The centre has links with many of the local schools, the college in Bridgend, as well as GPs, the Princess of Wales Hospital and Macmillan Cancer Support.

The spokeswoman added: "We have a community cafe on a Wednesday run by our valued volunteers, which carers can attend along with those they care for; and staff are always available for a cup of coffee and a chat during centre opening hours."

Health and social care organisations from across Wales came together through the Welsh NHS Confederation's Policy Forum to outline key issues and priorities for the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee as part of their inquiry into the impact of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act in 2014 in relation to carers last year.

In the document, it detailed the role of a carer and who it could apply to.

It said: "The Welsh Government defines a carer as 'anyone of any age, who provides unpaid care and support to a relative, friend or neighbour who is disabled, physically or mentally ill, or affected by substance misuse'. Carers can be involved in a whole range of practical, physical, personal and administrative tasks. Examples might include: cooking; housework; lifting, washing and dressing the person cared for; helping with toileting needs; administering medication; and providing emotional support."

It also said that three in five of us will become carers at some point in our lives, with 103,594 people in Wales providing over 50 hours of unpaid care per week.

The number of carers is still growing and it is estimated that by 2037 there will be over half a million carers in Wales – a 40% rise. The care provided by unpaid carers in Wales is worth an estimated £8.1 billion a year.

Carers can drop into the centre any time it is open. Any carers in the area who would like more information about Bridgend Carers Centre services can call 01656 658479 or email: enquiries@bridgendcarers.co.uk. The centre is also on Facebook and Twitter.

The spokeswoman from the charity said: "In light of the current coronavirus situation, Bridgend Carers Centre aims to continue providing support to carers in Bridgend, if necessary through telephone contact and electronic communications in the predicted difficult weeks ahead."

Llantwit Major friends embark on mission to help families hit by recent flooding in RCT

By Sam Hall
Reporter
sam.hall@glamorgan-gem co.uk

TWO friends from the Vale have rallied together and collected hundreds of food items for struggling flood victims in nearby Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Pals Tracey Gardiner, from Llanmaes, and Faye David, from Llantwit Major, have already made two trips to the area's donation centre with a car full of essential foods.

They decided to take action to help out after watching the devastating scenes on the news.

Schools in the area, churches, businesses and residents collected food items and handed them to Ms Gardiner and Ms David to take up to Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The two friends explained: "We got chatting about the plight of the people of Rhondda Cynon Taf. Watching the devastation on the news was heartbreaking and then the council put out an urgent request for food.

"To think that in our own country, only a few miles away, there are more than 750 families in desperate need of food. That was what motivated us to try to see if we could help."

Youngsters and staff at St Illtyds Primary School, Llantwit Major Comprehensive, Ysgol Y Ddraig and Ysgol Dewi Sant collected food to give to the flood victims.

Edwin Counsell, from St Illtud's Church in Llantwit, arranged collections from a string of churches stretching from St Athan to Ogmore. His appeal led to some 20 bags of food being collected.

Other shops and groups which helped Ms Gardener and Ms David included Hays Travel in Llantwit, Well Chemist, Pony Club Mums, Boverton shop and Llantwit Major Library.

Arthur John in Cowbridge donated dog and cat food for the flood victims' four-legged friends.

Ms Gardiner said: "I would like to thank every person who took the time to donate and reassure them that even a small act of kindness made a huge difference to the families, elderly and children that have had their lives turned upside down by these floods.

ABOVE: Volunteers and Rhondda Cynon Taf workers at the donation centre with Tracey and Faye on the right.

ABOVE: Edwin Counsell and volunteers at the church with donations.

"It seems that some of those that had insurance have been told they are not covered and that they may not be back in their homes until Christmas."

She added: "Children have been particularly affected and some are suffering with PTSD. Then there is the mud and contamination meaning everything is ruined.

"The trauma of these floods is real and I hope that our donations will help them see we are thinking of them and they are not alone.

"Thank you Llantwit Major and surrounding areas for all your support."

Pupils enjoy STEM subject take over

RECENTLY, the four STEM subjects took over Albert Primary School and pupils from nursery to year 6 experienced a range of science, technology, engineering and maths challenges.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable and engaging week full of excitement, awe and wonder. Throughout the week, spectacular whole school assemblies have exposed the pupils to different aspects of STEM through fascinating demonstrations.

They have learnt how to look at investigations in a whole new way: how air pressure changes can cause explosions, how a child can fit through the middle of an index card and the many amazing discoveries made by women and their contributions to all of the STEM subjects.

The theme was 'Our Diverse Planet' and involved the year-5 children visiting Techniquest, the year-6 pupils investigating the Polar Explorer topic, which included making Vlogs from the Antarctic. Year-3 welcomed their parents and carers to school, where they made robots from upcycled materials and year-4 visited Barry Island to investigate the effect pollution has had on our beaches; they discovered the science behind gelato making at Zio's Gelateria.

During the week at Albert we have also been thrilled to welcome a number of guests to share

their expertise in STEM with pupils including the Welsh School of Architecture working with year-2 on building sustainable and environmentally friendly houses, and year-5 children working on the Arcot Triangle Community Project.

STEM week inspired many pupils to open a window to the world of science.

Written by the Albert Primary Media Monitors.

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Housing association staff donate five hundred pounds to foodbank

Paul Roberts with Becky and Phil Morgan, managers of the Vale Foodbank.

LAST week, the Vale Foodbank received £500 from Newydd Housing Association's staff charitable fund.

Founded by local churches, the foodbanks work together towards stopping hunger in their local area and rely on donations of food from individuals, churches, schools and other organisations. Becky Morgan, Vale Foodbank manager said: "We're really grateful to everyone at Newydd for their generous donation which will make a huge difference to our work."

Paul Roberts of Newydd said: "Staff wanted to donate to the foodbank following their December campaign to support people in food poverty. I am incredibly pleased that this money has been donated to the Vale Foodbank, a worthy charity supporting people who may be going through a difficult period in their lives."

Announcements will be bilingual at Welsh stations

TRANSPORT for Wales (TfW) have announced that more than 170 stations in Wales have been fitted with a Welsh language information system.

The new technology, owned by Amazon and IVONA, is called 'Geraint' and can provide clear Welsh language journey announcements and up to the minute changes.

Gweirydd Davies, head of Welsh Language Strategy at Transport for Wales, said: "Creating a bilingual transport system is a priority for us at TfW, and we're working with the Welsh Language Commissioners Office to ensure we achieve our goals. The addition of 'Geraint' will make a positive difference for our Welsh speaking customers.

"The old technology wasn't fit for purpose when it came to the Welsh language, so we had to find a new solution and develop it ourselves. It's a step in the right direction in making our network bilingual and we're excited to look at making similar progress with our on-train announcement systems too."

In Wales, there are 222 stations, but before the introduction of 'Geraint', only a quarter of those had a system which worked for the Welsh language. The rest had an old text-to-speech system, which struggled with Welsh pronunciations.

The new system allows TfW's information controllers to update customers with real time bilingual information as any changes occur. It was piloted in Porthmadog, Treforest Estate, Skewen, Hengoed and Pontyclun late last year before the full roll out over January, February and March.

In total, 171 stations are benefitting from the investment.

Cash help is there for not-for-profit groups hit by floods

AS parts of Wales are coming to terms with the effects of the recent flooding, and coronavirus becomes the next challenge, the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) has announced emergency fast-track loans for non-profit organisations in Wales.

The practical impact of the coronavirus has still to become fully apparent but cancelled events, falling visitor numbers or reduced sales are very realistic possibilities with a knock-on effect on cash flow for voluntary organisations across the country.

In response to this, Social Investment Cymru at WCVA is offering emergency loan funding to voluntary sector organisations in Wales to help see them through the worst of the effects.

At the same time, existing loan holders are being offered the option to defer payments for a time.

HOW THE LOANS WILL WORK

Loans will be tailored to each applicant's individual needs in terms of amount, term and repayment profile.

They start with a blank piece of paper - what do you need? What best suits you in terms of repayments?

"We recognise that speed of decision making and speed of availability of funds are paramount, so that organisations can react quickly as events unfold," said Alun Jones, the head of Social Investment Cymru.

"We are reducing the application process to its bare minimum. This will mean that the majority of organisations being approved will see money in their bank accounts within seven days of submitting a completed application (subject to prompt signature of documentation)."

Eligibility criteria:

• Incorporated social enterprise or charity based in Wales.

• Demonstrable effect on cash flow from flooding or coronavirus.

• Need to replace assets damaged in flooding.

Money can be used for:

• Support for cash flow.

• Purchase of replacement assets.

• Bridging of receipt of insurance claims.

Existing loan holder:

If you are an existing borrower, you may not need any additional money at this point, but the effect on your cash flow might be such that covering your monthly loan repayments could stretch things beyond where you may feel comfortable.

In such cases Social Investment Cymru will be happy to receive a request to suspend loan repayments for an agreed period.

Voluntary organisations that would like to apply for an emergency fast-track loan, or amend existing loan repayments, are encouraged to contact the SIC team on *sic@wcva.cymru* or 0300 111 0124.

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Bridgend College: A sustainable way of tackling period poverty

BRIDGEND College is delighted to have launched a sustainable initiative in a bid to tackle period poverty in the community.

Funded by the Welsh Government and in partnership with Silly Panda and Wings Cymru, the scheme is an eco-friendly, innovative approach to promote period dignity by giving students at the College access to sustainable solutions to sanitary products and breaking the stigma surrounding periods.

This is a really exciting partnership, as Bridgend College is the first college in Wales to provide free eco-friendly packs to students.

Silly Panda is a small indie business in south Wales, created in 2014 by Becca Mapp. Becca started by creating reusable cloth menstrual pads for friends which quickly gained popularity and blossomed into a busy full-time job.

As part of the launch, these free products were offered in a gender-neutral and inclusive way to anyone who experiences periods or knows someone who does.

The pack includes a branded wash bag, reusable sanitary pads in a variety of appealing designs, a menstrual cup, a stain remover bar, drying strap, a locally made soap bar and an exclusive discount voucher for the purchase of further products.

To raise awareness throughout Women's History Month in March, the Student Wellbeing Team and the College's female student focus group, the GRL Society, coordinated a number of buzz sessions that were open to all genders to educate and to raise awareness of period poverty amongst students.

Members of the GRL Society have already trialled the products with positive feedback:

One member said: "Reusable Pads are amazing – the soft material is much more comfortable. I no longer have to buy tampons – the organic cup is cost-effective and lasts up to 12 hours."

The College, along with its partners within the scheme, want a community where periods are fully understood, accepted and normalised by all and access to products of choice are available in the most dignified way. The initiative has a gender-neutral approach which aims to eradicate stigma and myths so that no one is ashamed or embarrassed to talk about periods.

Student Wellbeing and Safeguarding Manager, Samantha Gunnarsson, said: "We are really excited about this initiative. Awareness across the College has been entirely student-led and we've had a lot of positive feedback from students who have already tested the products. We understand that the impact of single-use plastics on the environment is a hot topic amongst our students and our aim is to do our bit to find solutions for that."

According to the Women's Environmental Network, a woman will go through an average of more than 11,000 disposable menstrual products throughout

the course of her life, which contribute to more than 200,000 tonnes of waste per year (Independent, 2019).

Bridgend College is proud to support the scheme in an attempt to tackle period poverty, the environment and equality. For more information, contact the Student Wellbeing Team on 01656 302 302 ext 488 or wellbeing@bridgend.ac.uk. To find out more about Silly Panda, visit sillypanda.co.uk.

‘Save people’s lives by not visiting residential homes’ says Welsh social care chief

A SOCIAL care leader is urging people not to not to visit relatives living in care homes in the Vale or Bridgend county borough unless it’s “absolutely essential” so they can protect their loved ones from coronavirus.

Mario Kreft MBE, the chair of Care Forum Wales, said care homes were “safe havens” for elderly and vulnerable people so it was vital to ensure the highest possible standards of infection control.

Mr Kreft, who also owns eight care homes in Wrexham and Caernarfon, is also calling on health boards to cut bureaucracy so that older patients who no longer need hospital care can be transferred to care homes.

Expediting that process would help free up hospital beds and allow the discharged patients to receive care in a more appropriate setting.

He said Care Forum Wales was in regular contact with Welsh Government health experts and they were passing on the latest scientific advice to their 400-plus members across Wales.

Mr Kreft said: “In my organisation, Pendine Park, we’re already significantly reducing the number people entering homes and we’ve introduced washing stations outside each of them.

“We’ve got to do everything that we can to ensure that people are safe, and I would say this to anybody who wants to visit a loved one in a care home to think very, very carefully because totally accidentally this virus could be transmitted.

“Simply put, not visiting care homes is likely to save people’s lives.

“I think it’s very important that we recognise that care homes will be a safe haven.

“There has been a lot of talk about cocooning people. It makes a lot of sense as a principle to use our care homes.

“There are over 20,000 people in care homes in Wales and over 500,000 in the UK.

“We need to ensure that those organisations are properly supported to do the job that they’re there to do and that is to protect and safeguard the people that they care for, and their staff.

“The other important thing now is to make sure that we get as many people into the sector where there is capacity.

“It is important to relieve pressure on the NHS which is already pretty much at capacity.

“The message from Care Forum Wales is that we have to ensure that we make the room that is needed in our NHS.

“People should be moved to care homes because they are relatively safe places and they will be well cared for.

“It is vital that we reduce the bureaucracy to a bare minimum. Putting paper work ahead of the people’s lives cannot be tolerated in an emergency situation like this.

“We need to learn from the Italian experience in terms of increasing capacity in our health care system.

“I think all of the evidence is suggested that we need to push this epidemic back as far as we can so that the NHS will be able to cope and so-called herd immunity is achieved in the wider population..

“If we’re not very careful and we don’t give this the planning that we need to, we’re going to be finding that these people are hugely at risk.

“By definition, the people in care homes and nursing homes are vulnerable because they have underlying problems.

“People in the community who receive domiciliary care are also vulnerable and often have respiratory problems.

“These people are the matriarchs and patriarchs of our communities across Wales and we must not be ageist in our approach in terms of prioritising resources.

“We need to do everything possible to protect our vulnerable people. It is our duty as a caring society to do that.”

Mario Kreft has spoken on behalf of the Welsh care home sector.

Young boy met radio stars on Cardiff homework tour

Above is Albert with Jagger and Woody. Right is Albert dressing up in front of Welsh landmarks.

By Ariane Hill
Reporter
Ariane@glamorgan-gem co.uk

A FOUR-year-old boy was able to meet radio presenters Jagger and Woody as part of his Eisteddfod Homework over February half term.

Albert Closier-Hawkins, from Rhoose Point, and his classmates, spent February half term completing the homework with the theme “what Wales means to me”.

The Rhws Primary School pupil was helped by dad Ian Closier-Hawkins.

Ian, who helped Albert take a photo gallery approach, said: “Being four years old, Albert wasn’t 100% sure of the answer, so he needed help.

“Albert has lots of fancy dress outfits and I thought it would be great to take some photos of Albert in various Welsh themed outfits outside some local Welsh landmarks. All these places have some importance to Albert.”

Albert was adopted by his dads three and a half years ago when he was less than a year old.

Cardiff is special to the family as the two fathers got married in Cardiff Castle, they all listen to Heart radio every day, they love the theatre and the Wales Millennium Centre.

Ian said: “He was dressed as a dragon inside Cardiff Castle, waving a Welsh flag outside Cardiff International Airport, dressed in a rugby shirt with a rugby ball prop outside the Principality Stadium – all in the pouring rain.”

Albert has been described by his parents as “funny” with the “wildest imagination” as well being “great at story telling”.

While they were driving around Cardiff, they decided to go inside the Red Dragon Centre to take a picture outside the Heart radio studios ,where they met Welsh radio legends Jagger and Woody.

Ian said: “I explained to them what we were doing and before we knew it, Albert was inside the studio with the pair of them, wearing the headset and learning how it all worked.

“Albert loves learning about how things work and he is a great fan of Maddie Moate, so he was in his element.

“Jagger and Woody very kindly showed him around the radios studio and then posed for some photos and even gave him Woody’s mug as a souvenir.

“This has made his homework fun and he learnt some very cool things too!”

More information on the Covid-19 pandemic

Coronavirus relief announced for businesses

THE Welsh Government has announced announcing a package of support worth more than £200m for small businesses to help them during the coronavirus outbreak.

Retail, leisure and hospitality businesses with a rateable value of £51,000 or less will receive 100 per cent business rate relief and pubs with a rateable value of between £51,000 and £100,000 will receive a £5,000 reduction on their bill.

A further £100m will be available for a new grant scheme for small businesses. Further details on this new grant scheme will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Announcing the decision, Finance Minister Rebecca Evans said:

"I'm pleased we can offer this package of support to businesses as part of our response to the coronavirus outbreak. We are allocating every penny of the funding we will be receiving as a consequence of the schemes the UK Government announced in England last week to support businesses in Wales.

"But I know that helping businesses with their rates bills will not be enough to protect them from the severe drop in custom many are experiencing as coronavirus cases increase.

"We will be calling on the UK Government to act quickly and decisively to provide a very significant support package for vulnerable businesses and their employees."

Coronavirus: Age Connects' appeal for donations

THE older people's charity, Age Connects Cardiff and the Vale, is working to reach out not only to the 948 vulnerable older people identified on its database, but also the many more who are now making contact every day asking for support.

With so many people wanting to help – Age Connects is asking people and businesses to make much needed donations to support their work at this demanding time.

Visit the charity website or the following link to show support: https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/helpushelp

Jeff Hawkins, the charity CEO explains "We are following official guidelines and advice and consequently, all of our public offices which serve older people have been closed and staff are advised to work from home where possible to reduce risks to themselves and those around them.

"Our limited resources are now focused on maintaining telephone contact with the hundreds of older people on our charity database identified as being most in need. We estimate this number to be 948 older people living within Cardiff and the Vale. Our staff and volunteers will be working hard to make calls to see if assistance is needed with shopping etc. and to offer reassurance, social contact and support".

The charity shares that in this worrying and anxious time for all, the community spirit being shown is heart-warming to see. Age Connects urges that if you or an organisation you work for want to show support for its on-going work at this time, then please make a donation and help them reach out and ensure that older people do not feel alone and stay safe and well during this unsettling time.

Plaid Cymru calls for support for local businesses

PLAID Cymru have called for financial support for businesses and workers affected by the Coronavirus, Covid-19 outbreak.

It is expected that many people-facing businesses or freelancers will see a drop in income, as a result of fewer people going out or because of cancelled events.

At the time of writing, the UK Government has advised against socialising in public locations, such as pubs, but not announced a closure.

Plaid Cymru councillor Ian Johnson, who represents the centre of Barry, said: "We know that many small businesses will need help to pay their staff and even owners while the coronavirus outbreak is ongoing.

If fewer people are spending money in local shops then our service industries, such as hairdressers or pubs will be reducing people's hours.

"There needs to be an instant response from Government, like in most northern European countries - such as Norway, Denmark and France – that people's finances will not be at risk.

This could take the form of a basic income, where everybody receives a guaranteed amount of money each week.

"Not needing to worry about your bank balance is a real weight off people's minds in a crisis. The UK Government should follow France is announcing that it will provide all necessary support.

"I have also asked the Vale Council how they will be supporting town centre and high street businesses so that they only close their doors in line with coronavirus restrictions, rather than close for good."

Vale AM's response to coronavirus outbreak

VALE AM Jane Hutt has issued the following statement on the coronavirus situation in the Vale:

When I visited the High Street in Barry at the weekend to do my shopping, the local businesses were planning together how they could 'help the elderly' with deliveries of food.

Already many businesses do deliver to peoples' homes as well as care homes and restaurants. This includes the butcher, the greengrocer, the dairy and the pharmacist.

Across the Vale there are businesses and groups providing services and people ready to help those who are isolated or unable to get out.

Useful contact details:

I will be holding telephone surgeries on Saturday, April 4, 10am-11am, and on Friday, April 24, 4pm-5pm. Please contact my office to book a telephone appointment at these times. My office can be contacted via 01446 740981, jane.hutt@assembly.wales or 115 High Street, Barry, CF62 7DT.

Cardiff and Vale Citizens Advice have provided the following information about telephone, web, podcast advice services Advicelink Cymru service (03444 77 20 20) where advisers are available 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday or online at *www.adviceguide.org.uk.*

Council plans for 'worst case scenario' in virus outbreak

THE leader of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has said the local authority is considering the redeployment of staff and resources in order to ensure essential services continue to be provided in a "worst-case scenario" during the outbreak of coronavirus.

The GEM understands that this means temporally moving staff from back office to front line to keep essential services going, although details are still to be decided.

Cllr Huw David said: "The local authority has initiated a coronavirus planning and co-ordination group and is currently developing the strategy that the local authority will adopt in the event of a range of different scenarios.

"Discussions are ongoing with trade union representatives to plan for varying levels of impact on our workforce and in particular we are exploring ways to deliver our most essential services.

"The UK Government, Welsh Government and organisations such as Public Health Wales are working to limit the spread of the virus.

"The council and its partners are continuing to support these efforts.

"In addition, across all services in the local authority, a huge amount of planning and operational work is underway to ensure that priority services can be maintained."

NEWS FROM LOCAL CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Inner Wheel Club of Porthcawl

THE Inner Wheel Club of Porthcawl had a busy time at the February meeting, with a visit from district chairman Helen Starkey, and an evening celebrating the club's birthday.

The club was joined at the party by Porthcawl Rotary for a game of Mr and Mrs.

In March, members went to the Rotary International evening at the Hi-Tide, where they saw excerpts from Porthcawl Comprehensive's show *Sister Act*.

Members also met international students from Atlantic College, St Donat's. Hopefully, the events planned for the next few months, which include an Easter bonnet parade, a district rally and a conference in Belfast, will be able to go ahead in the light of the current health situation.

LJ

News from Porthcawl National Coastwatch Institution

DURING February, Porthcawl NCI dealt with two lincidents, monitored a further 15 and logged a total of 228 vessels.

Recently, they extended their spring watchkeeping hours until 6.30pm and during March so far, they dealt with three incidents in one weekend, including windsurfers in difficulty and concerns for a person in potential danger.

Following the winter storms, a large number of PVC pipe coils have been washed up along the coastline at Porthcawl and further afield, having been lost from a shipping container at sea, and they thank all who contacted them with details of sightings of the coils.

NCI are working with HM Coastguard, the harbourmaster and the supplier to effect a prompt and safe recovery. Although this is something different for themr, their position along the coastline and local knowledge allows them to assist. The NCI has a duty of care to safeguard the coastline and to protect wildlife wherever possible.

Porthcawl enjoys a close working relationship with watchkeepers from Worms Head NCI and have started joint watches with their colleagues there, taking an opportunity to learn how other stations operate.

NW

Porthcawl Stroke Club

COLLETTE Rankmore, senior social worker, and Sue Ponting, senior occupational therapist, gave a presentation on the social services to the Porthcawl Stroke Club recently.

They were both friendly and professional in their approach, and encouraged members to seek help if necessary. Many questions were asked and members were advised of the services available. Advice leaflets will also be distributed to members who need them. Thanks to both ladies for their support of Porthcawl Stroke Club.

Anyone wishing to join the Club should call Keith and Mary Duggan on 01656 773376 or 07484 250988.

The venue has changed due to the coronavirus outbreak and the group is now at The Community Hub in Griffin Park.

BM

Porthcawl Townswomen's Guild

IT is a rather worrying time for us all, but we are carrying on with our meetings.

If the self isolation of over 70s comes in, this might be a problem as so many of us come into that age bracket!

Our last meeting was our AGM, but before that we had a presentation from Porthcawl National Coastwatch Institution. We were able to see how the £500 we had raised for them at our Christmas Fair was being used.

The Porthcawl branch opened four years ago and have had many cameras installed round local coasts, so we were able to see on video many incidents they had been involved in.

At our AGM, reports of last year's activities were given before new officers were introduced. Our new chairman is Helen Taylor and vice-chairman Janet Anderson. Our retiring president Judith Orphan was thanked and given flowers.

Our new president is Jean Dorrington. This is an honorary position awarded to someone who has given good service to the Guild and is well deserved by Jean!

Our next meeting is on April 8 at 2pm in All Saints' Church Hall. 'The Titanic' is the title of speaker Ceri Joseph's talk; all are welcome.

DT

The international night hosted by Porthcawl Rotarty Club with students from Atlantic College

Wick YFC's dazzling talent displayed at Glamorgan's Public Speaking Day

THERE'S no rest for the wicked, with Wick's members going straight into public speaking and cheerleading immediately after Glamorgan's drama finals.

Wick started cheerleading practice to the energising song 'Let's Go' by Calvin Harris which fitted their cheerful and exuberant performance, with Lauren James as our choreographer and plenty of team effort to put everybody's personal touch on the routine.

Putting our chairman's muscles to good use (and not heavy lifting farm work for once) we had tumbles and flips from Lauren, Rhianna and Hollie showing off the girls' gymnastic skills, with some of the best handstands the audience has ever seen. And a brilliant mini cheer routine by Lucy and Bel.

Wick is proud of our members for their dedication and tremendous effort, and they will represent county at Wales in Builth Wells. Good Luck team!

Wick are delighted by our junior members placing third in the reading competition u14, gaining the best result Wick has achieved in years. Members read the book 'Rooftoppers' by Katherine Rundell. The judge commented that Rhianna read well with "great expression" and "excellent fluency"; and that Bel had "great pace" and "good tone, and spoke loud and clearly". Lauren had "great control" as chair and did exceptionally well achieving Reserved Chair to represent county in Wales. We are all very impressed by Glamorgan's youngest, and can't wait to see them compete in public speaking the years to come.

Lastly Lucy, Hollie and Lauren competed in a new competition this year called Call My Bluff: they put their best poker faces on and placed second with their creative and mendacious definitions. Members thoroughly enjoyed this competition saying it was great fun and very interesting.

Members couldn't contain their laughter when the opposite team gave a very eccentric and amusing example of nuns trimming a bush with holy water for one of their words. The three showed that they meant business with their teamwork and great observation skills. Good luck to all going forward to represent county. The day was certainly a success!

HJ

Social club's boost for Poppy Appeal

COWBRIDGE Social Club Bingo gave the Poppy Appeal a substantial boost to their 2019/20 collection when they presented them with a cheque for £1,000.

The club, which meets in the Lesser Hall on the first Thursday of the month for bingo, collected the money over a number of years.

Poppy Appeal organiser David Howell said: "The donation is a timely one for the Poppy Appeal as it takes the total for the year over the £20,000 mark.

"It's a big help and we are very grateful to them. The bingo social club is very friendly, everyone is welcome, and doors open at 7pm. If you enjoy a game of bingo have a night out and join them. The next call is on April 2."

Porthcawl Rotary host international night

THE audience were entertained with some extracts from Porthcawl Comprehensive's 'Sister Act' show at the recent International Night, hosted by Porthcawl Rotary Club.

This was followed by performances of national poetry and music from nine international students of Atlantic College, St Donats, representing countries from Asia, Europe, Africa and South America.

(The college students and Rotary members are pictured, above, by David Swidenbank).

Also present were Donna Wallbank, president of Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland, and Hugh Moatt, president of Porthcawl Rotary Club.

Proceeds from the evening will go to the charity 'SEED' which supports the construction of a new school in the Anosy region of Madagascar, where children have an only 50 per cent chance of any form of education.

DS

Fancy a ring? We'll give you a bell…

THE Old Newtonians handbell ringing team are celebrating the news that thanks to a generous donation from the Welsh Church Act Fund, they now have an additional 10 handbells.

All they need now is a hand (or two)! Go along to listen and see what it's all about – they meet at the Newton Institute in Porthcawl every Tuesday and Thursday from 7pm to 9pm, which includes a tea break.

You don't need musical knowledge or any previous training; all you need is a sense of rhythm and a sense of humour. It's a fun activity and you'll get lots of support and encouragement.

The leader is Tim Tilt and he's happy to answer any questions you have on 07749 254131 or email him at thetilts@hotmail.com.

Barry Soroptimists support the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal

OVER the past few years, members of Soroptimist International Barry & District have been involved with the Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal and they were delighted to be invited to the official launch at the Senedd by fellow Soroptimist, Vale AM Jane Hutt.

They spent two days last year with collecting boxes at Morrisons and Waitrose in Barry, where they collected over £1,000.

This year, once more attired in tall yellow hats and tabards, they raised over £1,200 in two days just at Morrisons, Barry. They are extremely grateful to Morrisons and their customers for their generous support and donations.

If you would like to find out who Soroptimists are and what we do, visit www.sigbi.org/barry-and-district.

Boverton WI are planning ahead

THE March meeting of Boverton WI was very low in numbers due to the nasty weather or worries about coronavirus, and the dates of upcoming meetings and visits that follow will be subject to change if necessary.

Members were reminded to be sensible and take all necessary precautions.

The speakers for the evening were Jason and Tony from Blood Bikes, whose work is all voluntary. They save the NHS hundreds of thousands of pounds by delivering blood, notes and baby milk from one hospital to another by motorcycle. It is a service that they carry out even on Christmas Day.

The May meeting will be a talk on foodbanks. Members are invited to bring along food items if they wish. Also, from May, our meeting time will change from 7.30pm to 7pm.

EMD

Cowbridge and District Flower Arrangers

IT was a sheer delight to listen and watch Wendy Davies entertain us with her demonstrations.

Her spring colourful flowers made her demonstrations naturally beautiful, and the winners of the arrangements certainly went home with a spring in their step. Our next meeting is on April 1 at the Lesser Hall at 7.30pm and our demonstrator for the evening is Linda Seabrook, her topic being 'The Green Fingered Flower Arranger'.

Out & About with The GEM

WHAT'S ON

Councillors' surgery

LLANTWIT First Independent councillors will be holding a surgery at the Heritage Centre, Town Hall, Llantwit Major, on Saturday, March 21 from 9.30am until 11.30am. Residents who have any issues to raise are welcome to attend.

Councillors' surgery

THE Labour councillors for Buttrills, Cadoc, Castleland and Court wards will hold their monthly advice surgery on Saturday, March 21 in the Small Community Room, Barry Library, Kings Square, from 10am until 11am; no appointment necessary.

Help with anti-social behaviour

DO you have a personal issue with anti-social behaviour or have a relative or friend with a problem who is looking for support and advice?

Anti-social behaviour can range from noise at unreasonable times, burning rubbish, drugs, violence etc. Age Connects Cardiff and Vale will hold an information session on Tuesday, March 24 at Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, from 10am to 12 noon. No appointment needed; call 01446 732385 for further information.

Epilepsy support

DO you have epilepsy or care for a loved one or relative with this condition?

Epilepsy Wales run a monthly support group at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop in Holton Road, Barry. The next session takes place on Thursday, March 24 from 10.30am to 12 noon. No appointment is needed; call 01446 732385 for further information.

Unpaid carers

DO you live in the Vale and look after a family member?

A new unpaid carers group has started in Barry, run by Alzheimer's Society, where you will be able to chat to those in similar situations and learn about available support. The sessions are run monthly on Thursdays from 10am to 12 noon, beginning at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Thursday, March 26. Call 01446 732385 for further information.

Housing support

HAFOD Housing Support Services run a free drop-in service monthly at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

Staff from Hafod Support Services can offer advice on a range of matters, including welfare rights and form filling, health and wellbeing, finance and housing.

The next session will be held on Tuesday, March 24 from 10am to 12 noon. No appointment needed; call 01446 732385 for further information.

Dementia Group

ARE you a carer for a friend or family member living with dementia, or do you have dementia?

Would you like to meet other people living with dementia or other carers in Barry for friendship, information and support?

A new monthly group is meeting at the Senior Health Shop/Café, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Thursday, March 26 from 10am–11.30am. The group will be led by the local volunteer dementia champion for Alzheimer's Society. Speakers on a range of topics will be arranged at further monthly meetings. The Café has received Dementia Friendly Barry recognition for its commitment to working with people living with dementia and their carers and all are welcome. Visit www.dementiafriendly-vale.co.uk for further information.

Chat and Chill in Cowbridge

THE Chat and Chill group meets every Thursday morning at Costa Coffee, Cowbridge from 10.30am to 12 noon.

Are you new to the area? Are you lonely? Do you just want to meet new people?

Please come and join us. Just turn up or ring Alun on 01446 774699.

Choir concert

UNDER the baton of musical director Rhian Jenkins, Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice Choir and soloist, mezzo SOPRANO, Olivia Gomez, will perform at St Theodore's Church and Wellbeing Centre, Kenfig Hill on Friday, March 27 at 7pm.

Tickets (£8) from Theo's Charity Shop, Bridge Street, Kenfig Hill or calling 01656 742703.

Scout jumble in Dinas Powys

1ST Dinas Powys Scout Group Jumble Sale takes place at 1.30pm on Saturday, March 28 at the Scout Hall, Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys CF64 4AG. Admission 50p.

Free Olympage activities for people aged 50-plus

ARE you aged 50-plus? Do you want to get out of the house, get active and make new friends to improve your wellbeing?

Come along to West Ward Community Centre in Cefn Glas, Bridgend every Tuesday from 1pm – 3pm and try some Olympage activities to suit all abilities including basketball, target throw, bounce ball, boccia (bowls based) and lots more! All activities are free of charge and suitable for people of all ability, so pop into West Ward Community Centre and have a go.

For further details contact Fiona at BAVO, on 01656 810400 or bavo@bavo.org.uk.

PACT meetings

COME along to Gibbonsdown 'Cuppa with a Copper' held every Monday at the Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close, Barry, between 10am and 12 noon.

Buttrills 'Meet Your Local Officer' at The Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, on Thursday, March 26 at 6.30pm.

Cadoc Police Surgery at Victoria Park Community Centre, Barry, on Thursday, March 26 at 2.30pm.

There will be a drop in session at Penarth Library on Thursday, March 19, at 10.30am and Thursday, March 26 at 1.30pm.

Meet your local officer at Atlantic College, Llantwit Major, (next to the food hall) on Thursday, March 26 between 5.30pm and 6.30pm.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life but are unable to attend a meeting, contact 101 for non emergencies or visit www.south-wales.police.uk to find contact details for your local PCSO to contact them directly for non emergency matters.

...and What's Off

Barry at War Museum

THE talk from Ron Powell due to take place at Barry At War Museum on Thursday, March 19 has now been postponed.

History Society

THE Rhoose History Society has carefully considered the advice of the Government regarding coronavirus and has decided to cancel its monthly speaker meetings until further notice.

Highlight Park Cuppa

DUE to the uncertainty of the current health situation, it has been reluctantly decided to suspend the Monday Cuppa walk in the Community Centre at Highlight Park until further notice (March 23 onwards).

We will reconvene when the situation has been resolved and advertise it in the newspaper.

Take care of yourselves, and follow the Government's guidelines.

Best wishes from the Cuppa group girls, hope to see you all soon.

Quiz in Penarth

THE quiz night organised by Friends of Penarth Library due to take place on Tuesday, March 24 between 6pm and 8pm has now been cancelled.

Dinas Charity Concert

THE Dinas Powys Community Council Chairman's concert featuring the Barry Male Voice Choir in aid of pancreatic cancer research scheduled for March 27 has been cancelled.

Chamber Music festival

BEN Tarlton is sorry to announce that for the safety of the community, it has been decided that the Llantwit Major Chamber Music Festival at St Illtud's Church on March 27 will not now take place.

Organisers hope that it will take place in the summer.

National Trust meeting

THE committee of the Vale of Glamorgan National Trust Supporters regret to announce the cancellation of the lecture at the Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge on April 15. The AGM is postponed until 7pm on September 16.

Cowbridge gardeners

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club on Thursday, March 26 is cancelled, as are all meetings until further notice.

Cowbridge Art society

DUE to the coronavirus, the Thursday evening meetings of the Cowbridge Art Society have been cancelled until further notice.

The summer programme is due to start on April 23, but these meetings may also be postponed. See facebook.com/cowbridgeart.cas.for more information closer to that date.

Cowbridge Flower Arrangers

ALL meetings of the Cowbridge and District Flower Arrangers are cancelled until further notice.

SELF ISOLATE IN STYLE

WITH A BETTER CLASS OF TAKEAWAY-

REALLY DELICIOUS FOOD
HANDMADE TO ORDER
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homes4u HOTLINE 01446 700111

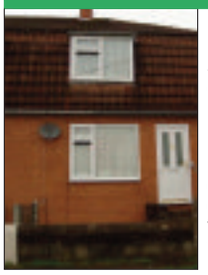
To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or apply in writing to:
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Environment and Housing
Civic Offices, Holton Road
Barry CF63 4RU
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 25TH MARCH 2020

All Homes4U properties have double glazing and central heating unless otherwise stated and will be allocated to the maximum occupancy.

It may take longer to rehouse you if you are awarded medical priority as there is a shortage of accessible and adapted homes in the Vale.

SHELLEY CRESCENT, BARRY



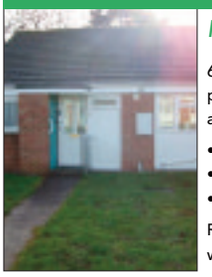
H4U reference 223511

No allocation will be made to applicants where there is a record of persistent ASB over the last 2 years, unacceptable behaviour includes (but not limited to) neighbour nuisance, harassment, criminal offences, recurrent substance misuse and making threats or actual violence.

• Two bed house

Rent £115.73 per week inc water

REDLANDS AVENUE, PENRATH (NO PETS)



H4U reference 243107

60+ Pref to applicants with a priority for adapted accommodation

• Two bed bungalow
• Level Access Shower
• Warden

Rent £137.42 per week inc water/warden

REDLANDS AVENUE, PENARTH (NO PETS)

H4U reference 243353

Pref to applicants with a priority for adapted accommodation

• One bed flat
• Ground floor
• Wet Room
• Warden

Rent £122.69 per week inc water/warden

DUNLIN COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 284967

• 2 bed 3 person flat
• Ground Floor
• Parking

Rent £98.44 per week inclusive of service charge

HANOVER COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 270265

55+ (50 with medical need)

• First - stair lift at flat
• One bed flat
• First floor
• Scheme Manager (part time)
• Alarm System
• Adapted bathroom - wet room

Rent £108.47 per week

CLOS PEIRIANT, BARRY

H4U reference 1038535

• Three bed house

Rent £110.78 per week

ST DONATS COURT, LLANTWIT MAJOR

H4U reference 174552

55+ (50 with medical need)

• One bed flat
• Ground floor
• Wet Room
• Dispersed Alarm

Rent £93.21 per week

ARTHUR DAVIS COURT, BARRY (NO PETS)

H4U reference 1051281

55+

• Bedsit
• First floor (no lift)
• Independent Living Officer
• Communal Entrance & Gardens
• Parking
• Communal Laundry

Rent £122.39 per week inc service charge

CAREW CLOSE, BARRY

H4U reference 946369

Suitable for family with 1 child

• Two bed house

Rent £100.90 per week

ELIS FISHER COURT, BARRY (NO PETS)

H4U reference 946917

55+ Pref to apps with a priority for adapted accommodation

• One bed flat
• First floor (lift)
• Level Access Shower
• Independent Living Officer
• Communal Entrance & Gardens
• Parking

Rent £134.83

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Expressions of interest are invited for the following developments and you will need to be a member of Homes4u in order to be considered. A local lettings policy applies to all. Allocations are based on highest priority connection to the area, then banding and date. You will need to ring the Contact Centre on 01446 700111 in order to express your interest and you will be asked a series of questions regarding your local connection to the area and you will need to provide full details.

WALES & WEST HOUSING ASSOCIATION

RAILWAY ROAD, RHOOSE

1) 5 X 2 Bed houses. Rent £108.81 per week.
Downstairs wet room

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of the rented homes.
When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.
All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.

Get your garden working for the environment

With Annie Paine

PLANT Llantwit's column will help Gem readers towards greener gardens, great or tiny.

This month's hot topic is compost, making and buying it.

Making compost is easy, and a valuable free resource.

First, choose your container, according to taste, budget, creative skills, and space: a plastic Dalek-type bin, a wooden one, or just a pile!

Plastic bins are relatively cheap, you can lift off when full, cover the heap with a sack till your compost is ready, and start afresh with the same bin.

I love my wooden New Zealand-style double, made by Vision21 in Barry. Or use pallets for a similar effect.

Wood allows better aeration and greater biodiversity, in fact your compost heap should be a healthy little eco-system. Children and adults can investigate who's at work in your heap, especially with a magnifying glass.

In Pembrokeshire, grass-snakes used our open wooden heaps for basking and breeding, and here in Llantwit we've had slow-worms enjoying the warmth of plastic bins.

Site your bin conveniently near your kitchen door, and if possible, choose a sunny spot (not on concrete), so it all rots down faster.

Add a good mix of Nitrogen-rich materials: sappy weeds, grass clippings,fruit and veg peelings, tea-leaves and coffee-grounds, together with carbon-rich materials: scrunched-up paper and cardboard.

Don't add: meat, fish or cheese, which attract rodents.

Leave out perennial weeds and woody prunings. Use these to make a habitat pile, or use your green waste bag.

Autumn leaves are better separately in a bin bag, as they decompose slowly.

Your heap should be moist but not soggy, you are aiming to attract all the organisms that break down plant material, including bacteria, fungi, woodlice and worms. Adjust by using a cover, or not.

Your compost is ready when most of it becomes unrecognisable, is uniformly brown and nice-smelling. You can spread it on the soil in winter, or mulch around plants. When growing potatoes, spread a good layer on top.

Find more about compost, including instructions for making compost-bins at gardenorganic.org.uk/compost.

We'll feature wormeries in a future column.

Home-made compost is great, but for growing seeds, it's worth buying a bag. Please make sure it's peat-free. So much peat has been removed from lowland bogs, we are fast losing these valuable habitats.

Peat bogs also store large amounts of carbon, which is released into the atmosphere when it's dug out. So, by avoiding peat, you are leaving the carbon locked safely in the ground, and benefitting specialised plants and animals, that can live nowhere else.

Peat-free composts vary enormously. Garden Organic recommends Sylvagrow, Fertile Fibre, and Dalefoot.

Topical tips:

• Don't rush to cut the grass: if you can't wait, raise the blades.

• Let some dandelions flower, to feed emerging queen bumblebees.

• Sow seeds indoors: sweet peppers (need a sunny window-sill), tomatoes, aubergines, chillies, tomatilloes.

• Outdoor seeds: peas, broadbeans, chard, carrots, beetroot.

• Potatoes: if it's too cold for planting, chit (sprout) them in a cool light place. Save space by growing in garden-waste bags.

• Jerusalem artichokes: choose a spot where they can continue growing in future years.

• If you don't have chives or Welsh onions, beg some from a friend.

•Watch for hedgehogs emerging from hibernation. Help them with a bowl of dog food mixed with porridge-oats.

* Formed by local people in response to the growing global climate emergency, Plant Llantwit is aiming to plant more trees, hedgerows and other plants in Llantwit Major and around.

For more information and membership (adults £1, under-sixteens free), visit Plant Llantwit on Facebook or email plantllantwit@gmail.com,

Adults with learning difficulties take to the water

CELTIC Capability Sailing and ValePlus are two organisations in Barry that provide learning and leisure based activities for people with a range of disabilities and learning difficulties.

Celtic Capability Sailing is a new charity that offers RYA Sailability sessions to a diverse and inclusive sailing community.

Vale Plus works to provide meaningful and life enhancing experiences for adults. Although near the coast, they have been unable to offer activities on the water – until now.

Both organisations have come together to create a six-week programme both in the classroom and learning to sail with experienced instructors.

The project will support adults with learning difficulties to have new experiences, develop their confidence and have fun. Participants will be supported and encouraged to access the facilities that are on their doorstep and, if they want to, to go on to take up sailing as a new hobby or sport.

Once the programme has been developed, run and reviewed, it will be offered to other disadvantaged groups in the area.

Through Aviva, a crowdfunding bid has been set up to raise capital for this project and support from the local community would make a big different to the success of the venture. onations can be made online at www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/sailing-for-all.

For more information on the activities,visit www.celticcapabilitysailing.co.uk and www.valeplus.org.uk.

Safety improvements must not be ignored, says AM

Mr Davies (centre) with Network Rail public affairs manager Sam Hadley and area Level crossing manager Ronnie Gallagher.

RESIDENTS' calls for safety improvements at a level crossing in Rhoose must not be ignored, South Wales Central AM and local councillor Andrew R T Davies has said.

The crossing falls on a footpath linking Rhoose Point with the Golwg Y Mor development and has seen an increase in footfall as more housing has been built.

Its proximity to the children's play area at Heol Y Sianel is of particular concern, since many young people use the crossing unaccompanied to access it.

Mr Davies has visited the site with Network Rail public affairs manager Sam Hadley and area level crossing manager Ronnie Gallagher, to discuss his concerns.

They have confirmed they are assessing options to enhance safety features at the crossing, while they also hope better footpaths to the gated crossing on Station Road and the bridge at Pentir Y De will provide a safer routes.

Mr Davies said: "Residents rightly want reassurance that the crossing is safe, not least because its proximity to a play area means children use it unaccompanied.

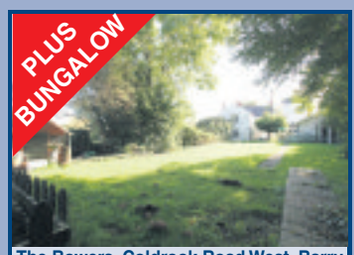
"I am extremely grateful to Sam and Ronnie for setting out how safety at the crossing is monitored. The crossing pre-dates the new development at Golwg Y Mor, so it is vital routes are put in place to the safer crossing points at Station Road and Pentir Y De.

This would mean most people would no longer need to use the crossing, with other more suitable routes available.

"I will be pressing the Council on this, since the safety of young people is paramount."

Redbrink Crescent, Barry
Niche Flat, 2 Beds,
Over 3 Floors,
No Chain, Garage, Views
£220,000 D67

Heol Y Pentir, Rhoose Point
4 Double Bedrooms; 3 Receptions
Sea Views; Superb Position; 6-8 Car Drive
Double Garage; Well Proportioned
£425,000 tbc



The Bowers, Coldrook Road West, Barry
19th Century Farmhouse
5 Beds, 5 Receps, 1/3 of Acre
Detached Bungalow, Garage
£534,000 E45

Plot of Land, Vere Street, Barry
Plot of Land,
With Planning for
2 x 1 bed flats, parking
£64,950

Ty Levant, Barry
One Double Bed, First Floor,
Modern Kitchen & Bathroom,
Parking
£92,500 B84

Cei Tir Y Castell, Barry
Two Beds,
Water Views,
Two Bathrooms
£124,500 B84

Regent Street,
Three Bedroom
Informal Loft Room
Low Maintenance Garden
£139,950 D59

Jewel Street, Barry
Two Double Beds,
Modern Bathroom
Channel Views
£139,950 D65

Daisy Cottage, Bridge Street, Barry
19th Century Cottage,
2 Beds, 3 Receps,
No Chain, Garage
£175,000 F36

Gladstone Road, Barry
Four Beds
Three Receps
Period Features
£224,000 E51

Haven Walk, Barry
Detached, Three Beds
Kitchen Diner
Driveway
£242,995 B84

Romilly Road, Barry
Four Double Beds,
Three Storey's
Refurbished, Private Garden
£335,000 C71

Clos Yr Wylan, Barry
6 Beds, 3 Receps,
Bathroom plus 2 En Suites,
4 Car Drive, Garage
£440,000 D67

Torbay Terrace, Rhoose
3 Bedrooms; 2 Receptions
Large Garden; Sea Views
Needs Complete Refurbishment
£115,000 E40

Railway Road, Rhoose
Brand New 2 Bedroom Home
70/30 Share; Ideal First Buy
Good Size Garden; 2 Car Parking
£115,000 B84

The Wheate Close, Rhoose
2 Bedroom Semi - Sea Views
Drive, Garage, Lovely Garden
Room To Extend; No Chain
£175,000 D68

Orchid Meadows, Wenvoe
Brand New 3 Bedroom House
70/30 Shared Equity Scheme
5 Minutes From Culverhouse Cross
£182,000 B84

Glyn Y Gog, Rhoose Point
4 Bedroom Detached; Immaculate Order
2 Receptions; Double Drive; Garage
Generous Low Maintenance Rear Garden
£274,950 C70

Llanmead Gardens, Rhoose
4 Beds, 2 Receps,
Conservatory,
Drive, Garage, No Chain
£279,950 D66

Mayflower Way, Rhoose
4 Double Bedroom Detached
Extended; 3 Reception Areas
Sea Views; Southerly Garden
£360,000 tbc

Lon Lindys, Rhoose Point
4 Bedrooms; 3 Receptions
Conservatory; Delightful Gardens
Immaculate Throughout; Lovely Plot
£375,000 tbc

Maes Y Gwenyn, Rhoose Point
4 Double Bedrooms; 3 Receptions
Large Family Garden; No Chain
Super Order Throughout
£395,000 tbc

Fonmon Road, Rhoose
4 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
Beautiful Countryside and Sea Views
Superbly Refurbished & Rare To The Market
£415.000 C71

Chris Davies

sales@chris-davies.co.uk
Rhoose 01446 711900
Llantwit Major 01446 792020
Barry 01446 700007
lettings@chris-davies.co.uk
01446 792020 Option 2

Lets!

Smeaton Close, Rhoose
4 Bedroom House
Semi Detached
Master Bedroom With En Suite
Garage With Driveway
Council Tax Band C. EPC C75. £900pcm.

Broad Close, Barry
Two Double Bedroom Flat
Open Plan Kitchen / Living Room
Modern Bathroom
Council Tax Band C. EPC D56. £625pcm.

Cilgant Y Meillion, Rhoose
Four Bedroom Detached House
En suite To Master
Downstairs WC
Council Tax Band E. EPC D67. £995pcm.

Heol Y Dryw , Rhoose
Three Bedroom House
En Suite To Master Bedroom
Enclosed Rear Garden
Allocated Parking
Council Tax Band D. £795pcm.

Picton Road , Rhoose
Three Bedroom House
Kitchen / Diner
Shower Over The Bath
Garage With Driveway
Council Tax Band D. £750pcm.

Hearte Close, Rhoose
Two Bedroom House
Drive and Garage
Gas Central Heating
Council Tax Band C. EPC C74. £675pcm.

Scott Close, St Athan
Three Bedroom House
Modern Kitchen
Modern Bathroom
Shower

Council Tax Band C. EPC D67. £595pcm.

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New flats plan unveiled for holiday hotel site in Porthcawl

NEW flats and apartments could be built in Porthcawl on the site of the empty Glamorgan Holiday Hotel.

The apartments would overlook the harbour and Sandy Bay. The development, of course, will have to satisfy planners at Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

Xcape Limited (Xcape) propose to demolish the Holiday Hotel building and build a "high-quality apartment building" on the site, comprising 54 apartments – a mix of one, two and three-bedroom units.

The company says that approximately 30 per cent of the apartments will be affordable homes.

The development will include 64 car parking spaces, new landscaping features, including tree planting, boundary hedges, and a communal garden

There will also be dedicated bicycle storage, to encourage sustainable transport

Xcape believe that its plans represent a significant opportunity to improve the appearance of this site, contributing to the wider regeneration of Porthcawl Waterfront, and providing much-needed new homes for local people.

The company is keen to hear what local residents think of the draft plans before it submits a planning application to BCBC. Residents are therefore encouraged to view Xcape's initial proposals for the site, including all relevant draft planning documents, at the project website: xcape-porthcawl.consultationonline.co.uk/en/.

Residents can also contact Xcape's project team on its freephone information line number – 0800 298 7040 – if they have any questions.

Xcape welcome comments on its draft plans prior to the feedback deadline of midnight on Sunday, April 12. Residents and stakeholders who would like to submit comments on the initial proposals can do so by emailing: feedback@consultation-online.co.uk; leaving comments on the website xcape-porthcawl.consultationonline.co.uk/en/; or writing to Xcape Porthcawl, c/o BECG, The Pump House, Garnier Road, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 9QG.

Entrepreneur said she wants to 'take on the world'

A female entrepreneur from Bridgend has launched a new business to take on some of the world's biggest companies in the world of Cyber Security Conferences.

Filipino-born Joan Tolentino (32), founded InfoTeam International in 2019, aiming to create business events specialising in IT and Cyber Security.

The custom-built conferences, which are aimed at board directors and executives, centre

The business launched with its debut event in Sweden in 2019, has since followed up with a new event in Norway and future events are already booked in for Netherlands, Ireland, France and the UK throughout 2020.

Joan is passionate about her role as a senior woman in a trade still largely dominated by men, as well as her belief that the entire IT security industry can grow together and, as part of International Women's Week, was keen to explain what it means to her.

She said: "There are few women in this type of role and the entrepreneurial spirit instilled in me by my parents drives me to succeed. My father was always talking about the value of money and telling me what was required to succeed in business.

"He ran a college offering Filipino students the chance to succeed globally by learning about information technology, and some of that has clearly rubbed off on me. "International Women's Week is a fantastic way to showcase some of the tremendous role models there are in business and I'm proud to be playing my very small part in that."

Joan is married with a young son and says the ambition and energy to create her own business comes from a desire to manage her own hours around her family following a life-defining incident involving her son's nursery.

"I was working for a big corporation and travelling endlessly. I was rarely at home and one night I went to pick my son up from his daycare nursery. The staff there asked me to wait outside while they verified my identity as they didn't recognise me as his mum.

"It was so upsetting; I couldn't quite believe what was happening. I'd already started to re-evaluate my life after my father passed away and knew I had to do something there and

AM joins DRESD Studios in St Athan

THIS month Jane Hutt AM has visited DRESD Studios in St Athan, a film and prop warehouse in the new business enterprise zone of Bro Tathan.

DRESD recycles and stores props from major TV and stage productions for future use; they moved to the Vale in 2017 and their facilities now offer a full circle of sustainable services for productions all under one roof.

'The Blue Door', a BAFTA nominee production's set was built by DRESD, with MD Lynn McFarlane also nominated for an Underwire Festival Award for Best Production Design.

Jane Hutt said: "It was wonderful to join Lynn McFarlane to visit the DRESD studios and see the brilliant work the company is doing to make film and television production more environmentally friendly. I am pleased that companies like DRESD have moved to the Vale and are providing sustainable solutions for the creative industries."

Vale People First have launched a project called 'Changing your Thinking', educating people about 'What is a Learning Disability'; and joining the Vale People First Active Community at their new Awards for All Lottery project launch, VPF trustee Jane Hutt AM said: "It was great to join the Active Community Group for their launch of this project, making six 'Changing Your Thinking' films, to help people understand more about what a learning disability is.

Brian and Christine – 60 years married!

EVERY once in a while, a good story gets lost in the system, so our apologies go to Mr and Mrs Brian and Christine Harris of Barry, who celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary a little while ago.

But, it's better late than never, and The GEM offers the couple all our best wishes.

Brian told the GEM that it was love at first sight – at least on his side, and he told his mother that he intended to marry Christine before he had even asked her out!

This was a piece of information that Brian's mum, probably wisely, did not pass on to Christine.

At the time, Brian was 21 and Christine was 18 but it didn't take long before Brian acted.

He and Christine had a date at the cinema, and three weeks later he asked her to be his guest at a cousin's wedding, where Brian was best man.

Towards the end of the evening he took her outside and asked her to be his wife!

He had a well-rehearsed line, which went: "You've got to say yes, because I'm the best man!"

The line worked and the happy couple were married in the Church of the Resurrection in Ely – as befits a couple who had lived in the area all their life.

In fact, many years later Brian was able to buy the house where he was brought up, and each year on his birthday he spends some time in the room where he was born.

The couple started life in a caravan, but saved hard to raise a deposit for a house. Brian was working for Radiocraft in Canton, while Christine was a receptionist at the Cardiff Chest clinic.

A sign of the times was that she had been forced to give up a good job at the Prudential because the company did not employ married women!

They bought their first home in Romilly Road, Canton (it was to be their home for 45 years).

In December 1961, Christine gave birth to

a son, Nigel, and 18 months later, they had another son, Carl.

However, this was not as blissfully happy a time as one might imagine. Nigel and Carl were the second and third children and tragically, two baby girls (the first and fourth) were both stillborn.

Brian continued to work for Radiocraft (he was with them for 47 years) and Christine joined him and clocked up 30 years with the same company.

They were fond of the Barry and Rhoose area and bought a caravan at Fontygary Park, which they had for 37 years, making many friends over that time.

When the time came to sell the caravan, they bought the house where they now live, in Port Road east, Barry.

The couple now have eight grandchildren and one great grandchild, and they celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary at Brynhill Golf Club. More than 100 people attended, and they received the traditional congratulations card from Her Majesty the Queen.

Brian and Christine have always been busy, and worked past their official retirement ages, but now they are content to be retired, and still watch Cardiff City, the club they have both supported for 70 years!

Please don't flush your wipes urges Welsh Water

WELSH Water has urged its customers not to flush wet wipes or kitchen roll down their toilets if they are affected by a toilet paper shortage during the COVID-19 ("coronavirus") outbreak.

The company made the warning amid reports of shortages of toilet paper in shops, which may lead to higher sales of non-flushable alternatives, like wet wipes or kitchen roll.

Wet wipes are the major cause of sewer blockages in the UK – with wipes found in an estimated 93% of blockages every year. The blockages cost the company £7 million to tackle, and amount to around 2,000 incidents every month.

The company has urged customers to throw any wipes or kitchen roll in the bin, rather than down the toilet.

Many supermarkets in the country have reported running out of toilet paper as shoppers buy in bulk as a result of the virus outbreak.

Wipes, along with other items like nappies and sanitary products, don't break down in pipes like toilet paper and can combine with fats, oils and grease to create blockages which are difficult to clear and can cause raw sewage to build up and flood homes, businesses and the environment.

Steve Wilson, Welsh Water's managing director of wastewater, said: "While we encourage everyone to practice good hygiene to protect against coronavirus, wet wipes and kitchen roll can be hugely damaging to our sewers.

"Throwing these items away in the bin instead of flushing them will reduce the number of blockages and the risk of flooding to homes, businesses and the environment during what is likely to be a difficult time for many people.

"It's too early to say what impact the outbreak has had on our sewers but, as always, we'd urge everyone to only flush the 3Ps – pee, poo and paper – to help avoid problems."

On average, Welsh Water spends £7 million every year clearing 28,000 blockages from its sewers.

FAT FACTS

• Welsh Water spends around £7 million a year clearing avoidable blockages in sewers – the cost is passed onto customers through sewerage bills.

•Around two thirds of sewer blockages on Welsh Water's network are caused by inappropriate substances like fat, oil and grease (FOG), wet wipes and sanitary products being flushed down the loo.

•This year Welsh Water had to clear a major 'fatberg' blockage from underneath a busy Cardiff street.

• The build-up of fat, oil and grease is indirectly responsible for many cases of sewer flooding.

If we all take care not to tip our greasy leftovers into the sewerage system, the number of customers affected by flooding will be significantly reduced.

KEEPING BEES

News from Fonmon Apiary

With Harold Williams

Planning for a population boom in hives this spring

ON the few spring-like days so far this year, all of the colonies take the opportunity to exploit the offerings of the day, i.e. crocus, catkins, celandines, primrose and dandelions.

Evidence of visits to the flowers can be observed in the pollen baskets on the legs of the returning foragers.

As I have trays under the mesh floors of several hives, among the debris that collects over a period of days, pollen can be found and I can then mount this pollen onto a glass microscope slide where the difference in shape/colour gives proof positive of these flowers.

Many pollen grains can look very much alike but they do have subtle differences that indicate their origin. When drier and warmer days occur on a regular basis, the first internal inspection of a colony can be carried out.

Although examination of the debris from the under-floor trays gives me an inkling of what is happening internally, only some visual evidence by way of eggs and larvae will confirm that colony expansion is taking place.

What will I expect to see when I open up a colony?

I want to check on the amount of in-house food they still have after their winter shut down, the vagaries of the weather can confine the bees to the hive and they need to eat every day so an expanding colony can very quickly deplete what food they have.

Two of the colonies are receiving liquid feed to help them along. With the exposure of the hive internals, any frames that are reaching the end of their life span can be replaced. The Queen may or may not be seen but if eggs are visible and if larvae that have developed from eggs are also visible, then things are as they should be and this observation confirms the presence of a Queen.

In the beekeeping world it is the weather that is the dominating factor!

Given good weather, the colonies will be sending out foragers to bring in the pollen and nectar to meet the demands of a growing population.

What sort of numbers do we have per colony at the moment? Between 8,000 and 10,000, and this will quickly be improved upon as our Queens will step up their egg-laying activity and from the few hundred per day at the moment she will lay something like 2,000 per day, and by May our colony numbers will easily reach 60,000 to 70,000.

As a beekeeper I must be on the alert and provide the required space i.e. boxes to accommodate this rise in numbers.

WHAT'S OFF

Golden Oldies Cinema

THE Golden Oldies Cinema, in association with Dementia Friendly Cowbridge, will not now be showing *Brigadoon* or subsequent films this term, because the club wants to do its best to keep you all healthy!

Porthcawl Museum closed

ANOTHER casualty of coronavirus precautions is Porthcawl Museum, which has closed until further notice.

Barry U3A

BARRY U3A is suspending all meetings and activities immediately.

It is hoped that meetings can begin again in September. Please contact your group organiser for more information or phone Christine on 01446 701537.

Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club

THERE will be no further swimming sessions at Legacy Leisure Centre until further notice, starting this Saturday, March 21 due to advice on coronavirus.

For further information, call secretary Patricia Finch on 07517 121729.

Barry Skittles Leagues

IN view of the recent Government bulletin the Ladies Skittles Committee has decided, in line with the Mens Leagues, to postpone all remaining games.

From March 17, all league games are postponed until July, when we will check on the conditions at that time and confirm when we can resume the outstanding games.

As there is only 6 weeks to complete the season. We hope this season can be finalised before the start of the new season in September.

We will call a secretaries meeting in July for the registration of teams for the new season. The planned meeting for April 6 is now cancelled.

We apologise to all Clubs and Public Houses that will be affected by our decision. We hope that we will be allowed back into the alleys after this Pandemic to allow us to go forward with the League Games.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter.

Anne Bird, secretary of Ladies' League

Barry Floral Society

THE Barry Floral Society demonstration, 'What a surprise' by Kathy Lee, scheduled for March 24, has been postponed.

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181 Court Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF63 1EX

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Family Notices

JONES
Iena Vaughan

Peacefully on 14th March 2020, at Llandough Hospital, aged 71 years. Devoted daughter of the late Margaret and Ieuan and much loved sister of Jennifer and brother-in-law Tony.

Iena will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

She will live on forever in our hearts.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service on Friday, 27th March at 3pm at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Family request no flowers. Donations, if desired, in memory of Iena, may be made to Mercy Ships UK, at the service.

WRIGHT
Gladys Ivy

Peacefully on 7th March at Llandough Hospital - Gladys, beloved wife of the late Kenneth. Much loved dad of Julie and Stephen. Respected mother-in-law of Angelo and Christine. Cherished nan and great-nan to all her grandchildren.

She will be dearly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Wednesday, 1st April at 10am.

Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support Cancer Research Wales in memory of Gladys.

RICHARDSON
Mason David

Tragically on 29th February, Mason, aged 19 years, of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved son of Alison and David, loving partner of Yasmin, loving grandson, brother, nephew and cousin.

Mason will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

A celebration of Mason's life will be held on Monday, 23rd March at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.15pm.

Family flowers only. Donations in memory of Mason may be made to 2 Wish Upon a Star c/o Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, 2, Hilda House, The Square, Pencoed, Bridgend, CF35 5NP. Tel: 01656 860545.

Please feel free to wear something purple to represent Mason's favourite colour.

LOWNEY
Sheila (*née* Hurley)

The family wish to announce the sad passing of Sheila on 5th March at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff. A devoted wife to the late Peter, an adored mum of Paul, Geraldine, Helen and the late Eileen. Loving mother-in-law of Kevin, beloved cousin of Jerry.

Sheila will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until her Requiem Mass at St Helen's RC Church, Barry on Wednesday, 25th March at 10.30am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to The Dogs Trust in memory of Sheila.

CLISSOLD
Jean Phyllis (*née* Hutchinson)

Peacefully on 12th March 2020 at Llandough Hospital, Jean, aged 91 years. Beloved wife of the late Arthur, much loved mum of Michael, Geoffrey and Andrew, mother-in-law of Julie and Jenny. Cherished nan of Nathan, Rachel, Charlie, Emma, Danny, Elliot and Hannah. Also a loved great-nan.

Jean will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the graveside service at Barry Cemetery on Thursday, 26th March at 12 noon.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu, if so desired, for Alzheimer's Research UK c/o the funeral director.

WRIGHT
Vera Ann (*née* Bowen)

Sadly at home on 29th February 2020, Vera, aged 80 years, loving mother of Andrew, Leslie and the late Michael, a loved nana and great-nana.

Vera will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service on Tuesday, 24th March at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 11am.

Family flowers only .

DAVIES
Norma (*née Wyman*)

Passed away peacefully on Tuesday, 10th March, aged 79 years, with her family around her.

Norma will be greatly missed by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Resting at Park Funeral Directors until the service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Wednesday, 25th March at 1pm and venue afterwards to be confirmed.

Family flowers only and donations received will be sent to the Donkey Sanctuary.

GOODRICH
Jean (*née* Jakes)

Peacefully on 11th March at Collegefields Nursing Home, Barry, after a long illness - Jean, much loved Mam, Nan and Nanny Sweeties.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Monday, 23rd March at 11am.

Family floral tributes by request.

EDMONDS
Ken

On 11th March, surrounded by his loving family, Ken peacefully passed away. Devoted husband to the late Eileen, loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Ken will be missed by all who loved and knew him.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until his service at St Helen's RC Church, Barry on Thursday, 26th March at 12.45pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support Ty Hapus in memory of Ken.

HAYNE
Dorothy May

Peacefully on 10th March at Milsom House, St Athan – Dorothy, aged 93 years, formerly of Rockamour, Ash Grove, Barry and a beloved wife to the late Robert Henry. Much loved aunt to all her nieces and nephews.

Dorothy will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Monday, 30th March at 11.00am.

Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support Breast Cancer Wales in memory of Dorothy.

WHISTANCE
Tony Hughes
(of Oakfield Tr, Nantymoel)

Sadly in Princess of Wales Hospital on 5th March 2020, Tony passed away. Beloved husband of Lynda, much loved father of Stuart, Philip and David, cherished Bampy of Jodie and Lucy.

Tony will be dearly missed but greatly loved and remembered by all family and friends.

Funeral service to take place at Coychurch Crematorium on Monday, 23rd March 2020 at 3.15pm. Family flowers only but donations kindly accepted to Cancer Research Wales c/o Riverside Funeral Services, Bridge St, Ogmore Vale, CF32 7AL. Tel No: (01656) 849036.

Family Notices

JOHNSON
Derek McCallum

Passed away on Sunday, 1st March at Queen Alexandra Hospital Portsmouth. Dearly beloved husband of Jenny, father of David & Julie, and grandfather to Ruby, Henry, Ben and Ryan.

Funeral service at The Oaks Crematorium Havant on Thursday, 26th March 11.30am.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Dementia UK c/o Gould & Chapman. Tel: 01428 604436.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

To the Best Mum in the World

GEMMA

Lots of love from your girls,

Grace & Eve

xxx

Acknowledgement

DONOVAN
John Patrick

June and the family would like to thank all those who joined them in celebrating John's life. Also huge thanks to the Barry Male Voice choir for making it so special.

Happy Mother's Day

Norma Manning

My precious Mum, and my best friend,
Every day is Mother's Day with you.
I love you with all my heart.
Tracey
xxx ♥ xxx

In Memory

In Memory
Audrey Patricia Hopkins

To my beautiful mum who passed away on 17th March 2016.

If roses grow in heaven, please pick a bunch for me, place them in my mother's arms and tell her they are from me.

Tell her I love and miss her every single day and there is an ache in my heart that will never go away.

All our love Dawn, Caz, Gem & Chloe *xxx*

Situations Vacant

Optical Receptionist

Part-time opticians receptionist required. Full training given.

Apply in writing to Stephanie at
Barry Eye Centre
87 Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4HG

Mother's Day In Memory

MOTHER'S DAY MEMORIES

HISCOCK
Elizabeth Gordon
'My Mam'

They say that hearts don't break, God, but that's not always true, the day you took our mam away, you broke our heart in two.

Love Phil xxx

OGMORE VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

V A C A N C Y

Clerk of the Council

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We are not just looking for someone to carry out the administrative functions of the role of the Clerk but a person who will be able to help our community grow and develop.

Commitment to continual professional development and training is essential. Working towards obtaining the relevant qualifications for a Clerk.

Hours of work include servicing Council and Committee meeting plus approved overtime for training and learning.

Further information including job description/specification available from the current Temporary Clerk of the Council. Application to include a CV with a covering letter submitted by email to:

Mrs Anne Wilkes, Temporary Clerk of the Council

E: ogmorevalleyccl2018@gmail.com

T: 0790 460 4049

Closing date 25 March 2020

Birthdays

Penblwydd Hapus
60th
Georgie Moffat

on 17th March 2020

Love Andy, Dave, Tom, Dan & Megan and all your family and friends.

Have a lush day and forthcoming year xxx

You'll get to NY again.

Public Notice

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (WALES) ORDER 2012 NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 10 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Proposed development at: **2 Redbrink Crescent, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 5TT**

Take notice that application is being made by: **Mr Mark Weaver**

For planning permission to: **Change of use of land to rear of property to garden land.**

Local Planning Authority: **Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry, CF63 4RT.**

Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application, should write to the council within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Signatory: Mr Mark Weaver

Date: 12/03/2020

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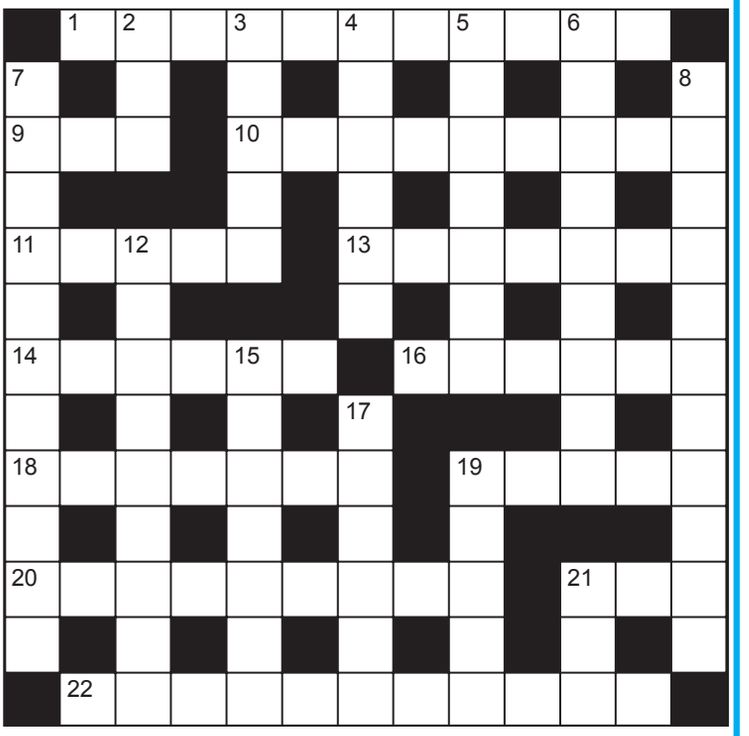

CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

1. This entertainment has its point, say (6,5)
9. A side feature (3)
10. She'll be used to getting low scores (9)
11. Soldiers from Tunis (5)
13. I possibly sail round on an intrigue (7)
14. Most attractive set cut slack (6)
16. Where to have a deep sleep? (6)
18. Strong wind wrenched a door half off (7)
19. Classical customs more to the point (5)
20. Those using it walked to work (9)
21. Greek character most authoritative in part (3)
22. Retain a barrister on the quiet? (4,7)

Down

2. Impression given by a tune (3)
3. Wants to sound negligent (5)
4. Let gin produce a thrill! (6)
5. A measure of space and time (7)
6. Not having had any hot drinks? (4,5)
7. What a revivalist may do? (11)
8. Proceeded to argue, like Siamese twins? (6,5)
12. Come between people (9)
15. Peremptory demand for a rise? (5,2)
17. A dotty thing to play with (6)
19. Fruit from some London trees (5)
21. Get even with a rival (3)

SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Ballet dance; 9 Ear; 10 Contralto; 11 Units; 13 Liaison; 14 Cuest; 16 Seabed; 18 Tornado; 19 Mores; 20 Treadmill; 21 Tau; 22 Keep counsel.

Down: 2 Air; 3 Lacks; 4 Tingle; 5 Acreage; 6 Cold sober; 7 Resuscitate; 8 Joined issue; 12 Intercede; 15 Stand up; 17 Domino; 19 Melon; 21 Tie.

#KEEPINTOUCH

Over the coming weeks your Gem will be working in print and online to keep you up to date with what's going on in your area - pick one up or log-on now and keep in touch

glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Remembering Bridgend's very own great escape

Crowds out in force to view scene of WWII escape

RECENTLY, the Hut 9 Preservation Group held their first open weekend of 2020, once again remembering the escape that happened 75 years ago.

With nearly 800 visitors attending the event over the two days it was yet again a very successful weekend, said Hut 9 Preservation Group chairman, Brett Exton.

Mr Exton said: "On November 2, 1944, the Prisoner of War Camp 198 in Bridgend received over 1,600 low-ranked German prisoners captured in Normandy.

"However, possibly wishing to get back in to the front lines, bored and looking to create mischief or desperate to get back home to loved ones, the Germans soon set about digging an elaborate escape tunnel, which led from hut number 9 to a field bordering the camp.

"In less than four months, a 30-foot long tunnel had been completed and it was on the night of March10/11, 1945, that Island Farm became the scene of the largest German PoW escape in Great Britain, when 70 Germans successfully escaped and made their bid for freedom.

"With many twists and turns to the escape story, a few of the PoWs were on the run for nearly a week until all 70 were eventually recaptured – and none made it back home."

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

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LMF MOTORFACTORS Supplying Quality Components And First Class Customer Service!

Thirty years ago, this month Lyndon Smith opened his business LDS Motor factors in Main street, Barry, as the business grew, they moved to larger premises on Cardiff road. After having a very successful run over the years Lyndon had the opportunity to sell the business to alliance automotive (nation wide company) in 2017, it was a great offer, one that wouldn't be presented again. The sale was agreed although he was concerned about his staff members, he was assured that all staff would keep their positions in the company which put Lyndon's mind at rest.

Matthew Alaoui the former Business development manager at LDS could see a gap in the market for another independent motor factor in the town, he decided to approach Lyndon to get some advice about starting his own business. After numerous attempts of raising the funds and start up loans Matthew felt that he was not getting to where he needed to be, which is when Lyndon proposed the idea of a partnership and to invest in Matthew's business plan. This was the perfect opportunity for them both so they started to plan the future of the new independent factors to open in Barry which would be named LMF Motor Factors

What makes a business successful is the staff you employ so Matthew needed to get the best team on board. He advertised for parts advisors and delivery drivers and was pleasantly surprised with the level of interest and with certain applicants. Alex Webb had also worked for Lyndon for many years like Matthew and was interested in sharing the journey with them. Alex is now the parts advisors at LMF and share holder in the company. Other former colleagues showed interest in the positions available, Gary Bennett, Sue Harford and Jeanette Tuttsell. All are all very loyal employees who worked for Lyndon for over 20 years and wanted to join the team, along with Matthew's Uncle Micky Marsh.

LMF Motor Factors opened 9th March 2020 in Main street, Barry. The team are looking forward to the year ahead. There are three delivery drivers which cover the Vale of Glamorgan and Penarth, they deliver free of charge to all their customers whatever the part. LMF have a vast range of stock from vehicle accessories to brakes, clutches, service items and many more. LMF Motor Factors pride themselves on providing excellent customer service and after sales.

Matthew is extremely grateful for the opportunity Lyndon has given him and feels very lucky to have such a supportive partner. They are both positive and excited for the future of LMF and to be back to doing what they are passionate about.

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12 12 AUDI Q3 2.0 TDI [177] Quattro S Line 5dr S Tronic, tech pack, sat nav, 19"alloys, black, full leather

£10995 NO BUYERS FEES

17 67 FORD MONDEO 1.5 TDCi ECOnetic Style 5dr, cruise, DAB, 32k, white

£10795 NO BUYERS FEES

19 68 BMW 320i M Sport Shadow Edition 4dr Step Auto, BMW warranty Feb 2022, 19"alloys, sat nav, 18k, white, full leather

£21995 NO BUYERS FEES

16 66 BMW 320d EfficientDynamics Plus Estate, sat nav, heated seats, silver, full leather

£11795 NO BUYERS FEES

16 65 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.0 Multijet Limited 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, 38k, black, full leather

£12495 NO BUYERS FEES

15 65 KIA PROCEED 1.6T GDi GT Tech 3dr, (201bhp) Kia warranty Sep 2022, sat nav, white, half leather

£10795 NO BUYERS FEES

18 18 LAMBORGHINI HURACAN LP640-4 Performante LDF 4WD 2dr lift system, Lamborghini warranty May 2022, 20"black alloys, rear view camera with pdc, green brake callipers, 2k, Met Green

£172,995 NO BUYERS FEES

19 19 FORD ECOSPORT 1.0 EcoBoost 125 ST-Line 5dr, Ford warranty July 2022, sat nav, rev camera, comfort pack, 9k, grey

£15495 NO BUYERS FEES

17 17 FORD FOCUS 2.0 TDCi 185 ST-3 5dr, Ford warranty May 2020, sat nav, blue, full leather

£14995 NO BUYERS FEES

16 16 BMW 318d SE 4dr, sat nav, 18"m sport alloys, privacy glass, 41k, choice

£10995 NO BUYERS FEES

16 66 ABARTH 595 1.4 T-Jet 165 Turismo 3dr, Bluetooth, dab, 17k, red, full leather

£11495 NO BUYERS FEES

18 67 BMW 116 D SE Business 5dr, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, usb, 20k, black

£12795 NO BUYERS FEES

17 67 HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.6 GDI Blue Drive S 5dr, Hyundai warranty Dec 2022, air-con, Bluetooth, dab, 10k, blue

£12495 NO BUYERS FEES

17 66 JAGUAR XF 2.0d [180] Portfolio 4dr Auto, sunroof,19"alloys, sat nav, 11k, Firenze red, full leather

£18995 NO BUYERS FEES

15 15 AUDI A3 2.0 TDI 184 S-Line 5dr, LED lights, bang & olufsen, met grey, half leather **£9795**

18 18 AUDI A3 1.4 TFSI e-tron 5dr S Tronic, Audi warranty April 2021, sat nav, heated seats, choice, half leather/lcantara ..**£16495**

16 66 AUDI A4 3.0 TDI Quattro S-Line Estate S-Tronic, pan roof, 19"alloys, sat nav, black, full leather **£19995**

17 17 AUDI A4 2.0 TDI Ultra Sport 4dr S Tronic, auto, sat nav, 17"alloys, cruise, black **£13495**

17 17 AUDI Q2 1.6 TDI Sport 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, 27k, tango red, full Milano leather **£16995**

16 65 AUDI Q3 2.0 TDI SE 5DR, sat nav, Bluetooth, 38k, shell white **£14495**

16 66 BMW 116d SE 5dr [Nav] Step Automatic, Pro nav, service pack, 19k, platinum silver **£12995**

16 66 BMW 225 1.5 XE Sport ACTIVE TOURER 5dr Automatic, 4wd sat nav, heated seats, 22k, white, full leather **£16495**

16 66 BMW 225xe Luxury 5dr [Nav] Auto, pan roof, sat nav,35k, grey, full leather **£15995**

16 16 BMW 318d SE 4dr, sat nav, 18"m sport alloys, privacy glass, 41k choice **£10995**

16 66 BMW 320d Efficient Dynamics Sport Estate Step Auto, sat nav, DAB, grey, full leather **£13995**

14 64 BMW 320D XDrive M Sport Estate Auto M Sport Plus Pack 19" alloys, Harmon Kardon, 51k, black, full leather..... **£13995**

16 66 BMW 320 D M Sport Estate Automatic, heated seats, grey, full leather **£15795**

17 67 BMW 320 D M Sport Shadow Edition 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, harman kardon, heated seats, blue, full leather **£15995**

16 66 BMW 330e M Sport 4dr Step Automatic, M Sport + pack, 19"alloys, sat nav, choice, full leather **£15995**

15 65 BMW 335 D XDrive M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, through load, 38k, silver, full leather **£16795**

17 66 BMW 320d [190] M Sport GT 5dr Step Auto, pan roof, sat nav, advanced parking, 19"alloys, Harman kardon, huge spec, met grey, full leather **£17995**

16 66 BMW 330d Luxury Estate Step Auto, sat nav, innovation pack, 19"alloys, black, full oyster leather **£16995**

16 66 BMW 420 D XDrive M Sport Gran Coupe Automatic, m sport plus pack, 19"alloys, sat nav, electric glass sunroof, blue, full leather **£18995**

15 65 BMW 420d [190] M Sport 5dr Gran Coupe [Professional Media] M Sport plus pack, 19"alloys, white..... **£14795**

17 67 BMW 420 D Sport Gran Coupe 5dr (190bhp), BMW warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, 20k, black, full leather..... **£16995**

17 67 BMW 420d (190) m sport 5dr gran coupe automatic, bmw warranty oct 2020, 19'' alloys, pro media, m sport + pack, Harman kardon, choice , full leather **£18995**

16 66 BMW 430 D M Sport 2dr Convertible Automatic (258bhp), m sport plus pack, sat nav, 37k, grey, full leather **£21495**

11 11 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr auto, 19"alloys, sat nav, black, full leather **£8795**

16 66 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, heated seats, black, full leather **£14495**

16 66 BMW 520 D M Sport Estate Automatic, pan roof, 190bhp, sat nav, grey, full leather **£15495**

17 67 BMW 520d M Sport Estate Auto (facelift) BMW warranty Jan 2021, sat nav, 18"alloys, 33k, white, full leather **£21995**

17 67 BMW 520 D XDrive SE 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Nov 2020, sat nav, heated seats, black, full leather..... **£18495**

16 66 BMW 640d M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, 19"alloys, xenons, 29k, blue, full beige leather **£21995**

17 17 BMW 640d M Sport 2dr Auto, 20"alloys, sunroof, 38k, black, full ivory leather **£22995**

16 66 BMW X1 xDrive 25d xLine 5dr Step Auto, sat nav, Bluetooth, 18k, grey **£19995**

16 66 BMW X1 2.0 SDrive D M Sport 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, black, full leather **£13495**

16 68 BMW X2 sDrive 20i M Sport 5dr Step Auto, BMW warranty Jan 2022, 19"alloys, sat nav, privacy glass, 5k, black..... **£23995**

16 66 BMW X3 xDrive20D M Sport 5dr Step Auto, pro media,20"alloys, 44k, black, full leather **£20995**

18 18 BMW X3 xDrive20d M Sport 5dr Step Auto Facelift, BMW warranty Aug 2021, pro nav, 19"alloys, sunstone metallic, full leather **£24995**

15 65 BMW X5 3.0 D XDrive M Sport 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), 20"alloys, sat nav, reverse camera, carbon black, full leather **£25995**

16 66 BMW X5 3.0 D XDrive M Sport 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), 20"alloys, sat nav, m sport plus pack, 30k, grey, full leather **£28995**

18 18 DACIA SANDERO STEPWAY 0.9 TCE Ambiance 5dr, Dacia warranty June 2021, Bluetooth, aircon, 10k, white..... **£7995**

16 66 DS DS3 CABRIO 1.2 PureTech Elegance 2dr Convertible, alloys, cruise, 33k, ruby red **£7995**

15 65 FIAT 500 1.2 Vintage '57 3 dr, Bluetooth, alloys, blue, full leather **£6495**

17 67 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge 3dr, pan roof, alloys, usb, dab, choice of 10 ..... **£6295**

18 68 FIAT 500C 1.2 Collezione 2dr Convertible, Fiat warranty Oct 2021, Bluetooth, 14k, Bossa Nova white/lunar grey..... **£11495**

17 66 FIAT 500X 1.6 E-torQ Pop 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, alloys, 29k, black **£7995**

17 67 FIAT 500X 1.6 E-Torq Pop Star 5dr, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 12k, black **£9995**

17 67 FORD EDGE 2.0 TDCI 180 Titanium 5dr 4WD, Ford warranty Dec 2020, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 16k, silver with full leather **£19995**

13 63 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 3dr, aircon, USB, white. **£5495**

18 18 FORD FIESTA 1.5 TDCi 120 Titanium 5dr, Ford warranty June 2021, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, white **£10295**

10 10 FORD FIESTA 1.6 Titanium 5dr, alloys, aircon, USB, red **£4295**

18 67 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost 125 ST-Line X 5dr, Ford warranty March 2021, rear view camera, sat nav, 10k, grey, half leather **£12995**

13 63 FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI 115 Zetec S 5dr, 18" Alloys, Bluetooth, 45k, white **£7495**

17 17 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCi 95 Zetec 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, 15k, grey..... **£10795**

17 67 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCi 120 Titanium 5dr, Ford warranty Nov 2020, sat nav, Bluetooth, red **£9995**

19 19 FORD FOCUS 1.5 EcoBlue 120 ST-Line 5dr, Ford warranty April 2022, 17"alloys, cruise, privacy glass, 9k, chrome blue **£15495**

19 68 FORD FOCUS 1.0 EcoBoost 125 ST-Line X 5dr, Ford warranty Feb 2022, sat nav, cruise, heated seats, 7k, black **£16995**

15 15 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCi Titanium 5dr, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 50k, silver..... **£8995**

17 17 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCi Titanium 5dr 2WD, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 37k, red **£12995**

17 66 FORD ECOSPORT 1.0 EcoBoost 140 Titanium S 5dr, Ford warranty Feb 2020, cruise, Bluetooth, 21k, yellow, half-leather **£9495**

16 66 FORD S-MAX 2.0 TDCI 180 Titanium Sport 5dr X-Pack (7-Seater), pan roof, sat nav, 33k, black, full leather..... **£17495**

17 67 FORD S-MAX 2.0 TDCi 180 Titanium 5dr Powershift (7-Seater) Ford warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, cruise, 23k, silver **£17995**

17 17 HYUNDAI i10 1.2 Premium 5dr, Hyundai warranty March 2022, cruise, Bluetooth, PDC, 7k, white..... **£8495**

16 66 HYUNDAI i40 1.7 CRDi Blue Drive Premium 4dr, Hyundai warranty Nov 2021, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 30k, met grey, full leather **£11495**

19 69 HYUNDAI KONA 1.6 150kw GDI Hybrid Premium SE 5dr Automatic, Hyundai warranty Oct 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, only 464 miles in orange **£22795**

16 66 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI Blue Drive Premium SE 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), Hyundai warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, 19"alloys, pan roof, 38k, white, full leather..... **£18995**

19 19 HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.6 CRDi SE Nav 5dr 2WD, Hyundai warranty May 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, 7k, grey, full leather **£18795**

16 66 HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.7 CRDi Blue Drive Premium 5dr 2WD automatic, Pan, roof, sat nav, Bluetooth, met red,full leather **£14495**

17 66 JAGUAR XF 2.0d [180] Portfolio 4dr Auto, sunroof,19"alloys, sat nav, 11k, Firenze red, full leather **£18995**

16 66 JAGUAR F-PACE 2.0d R-Sport 5dr, 22"alloys, pan roof, sat nav, 19k, grey, full two tone leather **£24995**

17 67 JAGUAR F-PACE 3.0d V6 S 5dr Auto AWD (300bhp), Jaguar warranty Dec 2020, 20"alloys, sat nav, 28k, white, full two tone leather..... **£30495**

17 67 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.0 MultiJet Limited 5dr 4WD, Jeep warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, 13k, grey, full leather..... **£15995**

18 18 JEEP CHEROKEE 2.2 CRD MultiJet 200 Limited 5dr 4WD Automatic, Jeep warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, privacy glass, 12k, choice, full leather **£16995**

17 67 JEEP RENEGADE 1.6 Multijet Night Eagle II 5dr, Jeep warranty Nov 2020, sat nav, privacy glass, cruise, 29k, white **£11795**

16 66 JEEP RENEGADE 2.0 MultiJet Limited 5dr Automatic 4WD, heated seats, black, full leather **£9495**

18 68 KIA CEED 1.4 T GDI ISG Blue Edition 5dr (138 BHP), Kia warranty Dec 2025, sat nav, reverse camera, 8k, blue..... **£14995**

18 68 KIA NIRO 1.6 GDI Hybrid 4 5dr DCT Automatic, KIA Warranty until November 2025, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 13k, grey, full leather **£21495**

18 68 KIA PICANTO 1.25 X-Line 5dr, Kia warranty Oct 2025, rev cam, 10k, black, full leather **£9795**

15 65 KIA PROCEED 1.6T GDi GT Tech 3dr, (201bhp) Kia warranty Sep 2022, sat nav, white, half leather..... **£10795**

17 67 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 T GDi GT-Line 5dr 4WD, Kia warranty Nov 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, 12k, white, full leather **£16495**

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 1.6 T-GDI GT-Line 5dr Automatic AWD, Kia warranty Nov 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, black, full leather **£14495**

17 17 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-4 AWD 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, cruise, reverse camera, silver, full leather..... **£13995**

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16 66 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER 3.0 TDV6 Vogue SE 4dr Auto, 20"alloys, panoramic roof, contrast roof, 20k, silver, full leather.**£40995**

15 65 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY SPORT 2.0 TD4 180 HSE Black 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), 20"alloys, sat nav, 28k, black, full leather.... **£23495**

16 66 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 TD4 SE Tech 5dr 4WD, sat nav, Bluetooth, 32k, choice, full leather **£18995**

17 17 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 eD4 SE Tech 5dr 2WD, sat nav, privacy glass, 27k, black, full leather **£19995**

16 16 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER SPORT 3.0 SDV6 (306) HSE 5dr Automatic 4x4, sat nav, reverse camera, 20"alloys, heated and cooled seats, black, full leather **£28995**

18 18 RANGEROVER VELAR 2.0 D240 R-Dynamic S 5dr Auto, Landrover warranty June 2021, pan roof, sat nav, 20"alloys, 16k, black, full leather **£37995**

17 67 LEXUS IS300h Advance 4dr CVT Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, 17"alloys, cruise, grey, full leather **£16995**

12 12 MAZDA 3 1.6 Sport 5dr, heated seats, privacy glass, grey..... **£4495**

18 68 MAZDA 3 2.2 D SPORT Nav 5dr, Mazda warranty Sept 2021, sat nav, headup display, reverse camera, black, full leather **£14795**

17 67 MAZDA 6 2.2d [175] Sport Nav 4dr, Mazda warranty Jan 2020, reverse camera, head up display, 18k, blue, full cream leather ... **£15495**

18 18 MERCEDES A180d AMG Line Executive 5dr Auto, Mercedes warranty Aug 2021, sat nav, heated seats, silver, half leather/alcantara.... **£17995**

18 18 MERCEDES A180 D Sport Executive 5dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty Aug 2021, sat nav, cruise, dab, 9k, choice..... **£18495**

18 68 MERCEDES A180d AMG Line 5dr Auto, Mercedes warranty Sep 2021, sat nav, rev camera, 7k, white, half leather/suede..... **£20495**

14 64 MERCEDES A180 CDI Sport 5dr, 17"alloys, Bluetooth, 48k, red, half leather..... **£10495**

18 67 MERCEDES A200 D Sport Executive 5dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty March 2021, sat nav, usb, reverse camera, 16k, silver.. **£15995**

18 18 MERCEDES C200 Sport Premium 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty May 2021, pan roof, sat nav, heated seats, 15k, choice, full leather **£18995**

18 68 MERCEDES C200 AMG Line Premium 5dr Estate 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, dab, usb, 8k, choice, half-leather **£22995**

18 68 MERCEDES C200 Sport Premium Plus 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 12k, silver, full leather **£22995**

19 19 MERCEDES C200 AMG Line 2dr Convertible 9G-Tronic, Mercedes warranty April 2022, sat nav, xenons, 6k, white, half leather/suede **£27495**

17 17 MERCEDES C220d AMG Line 4dr 9G Tronic, sat nav, 18 Alloys, 13k, silver, full leather **£19495**

17 66 MERCEDES C250d Sport Premium Plus Estate Auto, pan roof, sat nav, 33k,blue, full leather..... **£18995**

19 19 MERCEDES C300 D AMG Line Premium 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty April 2022, sat nav, reverse camera, 1k, met blue with half-leather..... **£27995**

16 66 MERCEDES E220d AMG Line Edition 2dr Coupe 7G-Tronic, sat nav, pan roof, 19"alloys, 37k, brilliant blue, full leather..... **£17495**

17 17 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Aug 2020, widescreen sat nav, ambient lighting, heated seats, xenons, 20k, choice **£19795**

18 18 MERCEDES E220d AMG Line 2dr Convertible 9G-Tronic, Mercedes warranty July 2021, command nav, 20"alloys, ambiente lighting, 27k, white, half leather/suede..... **£26995**

18 68 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line Premium 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 7k, choice, half-leather **£28495**

16 66 MERCEDES GLC220d 4Matic Sport Premium 5dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, met grey, full leather **£21495**

18 18 MERCEDES GLS350 D 4Matic AMG Line 5dr 9G-Tronic Automatic 7-Seater, Mercedes warranty Aug 2021, night pack, Harman kardon, sat nav, pan roof, 13k, white, full leather **£42995**

16 66 MINI COUNTRYMAN 1.6 Cooper D Park Lane 5dr, cruise, heated seats, 18"alloys, 31k, grey, full leather **£11995**

16 66 MINI COUNTRYMAN 2.0 S D 5dr, chilli pack, heated seats, 18"alloys, 32k, blue..... **£11995**

16 66 MINI CLUBMAN 2.0 Cooper D 6dr (Chili pack) sat nav, 14k, white silver, half leather..... **£12995**

16 16 MINI CONVERTIBLE 1.5 2dr, JCW chilli pack, heated seats, reverse camera, 12k, white, half-leather..... **£12495**

17 67 MINI 1.5 Cooper 2dr Convertible, Chilli Pack, 17"alloys, reverse camera, 27k, Caribbean blue, half leather **£11495**

17 17 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER 2.0 PHEV 4h 5dr Auto, sunroof, sat nav, 21k, grey, full leather **£20995**

16 66 NISSAN JUKE 1.2 DiG-T N-Connecta 5dr, exterior pack, sat nav, pan roof, 30k, blue **£9795**

19 19 NISSAN MICRA 1.0 IG 71 Acenta Ltd Edition 5dr, Nissan warranty April 2022, Bluetooth, cruise, 8k, met grey **£9795**

16 66 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 dCi Acenta 5dr, sat nav, rev camera, 24k, bronze **£10995**

17 67 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Acenta 5dr, Nissan warranty Oct 2020, cruise, Bluetooth, aux, usb, 14k, blue..... **£12495**

18 68 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.3 DiG-T 160 Tekna+ 5dr DCT auto, Nissan warranty Jan 2022, pan roof, 19"Alloys, 5k, grey, full leather **£21495**

16 66 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 dCi N-Vision 5dr, panoramic roof, sat nav, 19"alloys, met green..... **£12495**

17 67 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Acenta 5dr Xtronic Automaic (7-Seater), Nissan warranty Oct 2020, pan roof, cruise, 9k, blue.....**£14995**

17 67 PEUGEOT 308 SW1.6 BlueHDi 120 Allure Estate, Peugeot warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, pan roof, 38k, grey **£9795**

18 68 PEUEGOT 3008 1.5 BlueHDi Allure 5dr, Peugeot warranty Dec 2021, apple car play, sat nav, grey **£16995**

14 64 PORSCHE MACAN 3.0 TDV6 S 4WD 5dr PDK, Sport design pack, 19"alloys, white, full leather..... **£25995**

18 68 RENAULT CLIO 0.9 TCE 75 Play 5dr, Renault warranty Dec 2022, cruise, alloys, 8k, white..... **£8795**

15 65 RENAULT TWINGO 0.9 TCE Dynamique S 5dr, sat nav, rev camera, white **£5495**

17 66 RENAULT CAPTUR 0.9 TCE 90 Dynamique S 5dr, Renault warranty Feb 2021, sat nav, pdc, privacy glass, 19k, black..... **£9495**

16 66 RENAULT CAPTUR 1.2 TCE Signature Nav 5dr Auto, Renault warranty Feb 2021, sat nav, 18k, flame red, full leather..... **£12495**

17 67 RENAULT KADJAR 1.2 TCE Dynamique Nav 5dr, Renault warranty Nov 2021, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, 15k, white..... **£11795**

16 66 RENAULT KADJAR 1.5 DCI Dynamique Nav 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, 14k, gold..... **£10495**

15 65 RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI GT Line Nav 5dr, sat nav, 18"alloys, Bluetooth, 42k, met red, half-leather..... **£7995**

14 63 SKODA FABIA 1.6 TDI CR 105 Monte Carlo 5dr, 17"alloys, privacy glass, silver..... **£5995**

17 67 SKODA SUPERB 2.0 TDI CR 190 Sport Line 5dr DSG, Skoda warranty Jan 2021, apple car play, 19"alloys, 7k, white, half leather/alcantara..... **£18995**

17 67 SEAT ALHAMBRA 2.0 TDI CR Xcellence [150] 5dr DSG (7-Seater) Seat warranty Jan 2021, pan roof, sat nav, 16k, grey, full leather **£20995**

18 68 SUZUKI SWIFT 1.0 Boosterjet SZ-T 5dr, Suzuki warranty Dec 2021, alloys, Bluetooth, white **£7995**

17 17 TOYOTA CH-R 1.8 Hybrid Dynamic S 5dr CVT, sat nav, reverse camera, blue..... **£18795**

18 18 TOYOTA PRIUS+ 1.8 VVTi Icon TSS 5dr CVT Auto (7-seater) Toyota warranty Aug 2023, reverse camera, Bluetooth, white..... **£20995**

16 66 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CDTi 16V ecoFLEX Tech Line 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, 39k, white **£8995**

16 16 VAUXHALL ASTRA TOURER 1.4T 16V 150 SRi Estate Auto, 17"alloys, crusie, 11k, met blue..... **£10795**

17 66 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CDTi 16V Elite Nav 5dr, sat nav, 17"alloys, 39k, met blue, full leather **£9495**

17 67 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.4T Active 5dr, Vauxhall warranty Jan 2021, 17"alloys, cruise, 18k, white..... **£11495**

15 65 VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.6 CDTi ecoFLEX SE 5dr, heated seats, privacy glass, 33k, blue, full leather **£8495**

17 66 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI Blue Motion Tech GTI 5dr Automatic (220bhp), sat nav, cruise, heated seats, 10k, red **£17995**

15 15 VW GOLF 1.6 TDI 105 Match 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, black..... **£7495**

16 66 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI GT Edition 5dr, sat nav, heated seats, grey... **£13995**

17 67 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI 184 GTD 5dr DSG auto, sat nav, xenons, heated seats, 26K, GREY..... **£18995**

17 67 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI 184 GTD 5dr, sat nav, apple car play, 39k, grey..... **£17995**

17 17 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI GT Edition, 3dr, pan roof, sat nav, 33k, white **£13795**

16 66 VW SCIROCCO 2.0 TDi BlueMotion Tech GT 3dr DSG Automatic, sat nav, 18"black alloys, dab, grey, half-leather..... **£13495**

17 67 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDI SE 5dr DSG Automatic, VW warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, cruise, dab, 17k, grey **£18795**

18 67 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDi 150 SEL 5dr, VW warrant March 2021, apple car play, LED lights, pan roof, 6k, choice **£20495**

19 69 VW T-ROC 1.5 TSI EVO Design 5dr, VW warranty Nov 2022, apple car play, xenons, cruise, 1k, grey **£21495**

18 18 VOLVO V40 2.0 T3 152 Momentum Nav Plus 5dr, sat nav, heated seats, cruise, 19k, grey **£13995**

15 65 VOLVO V40 D2 R DESIGN 5dr, 17"alloys, Bluetooth, black, half leather **£9495**

17 67 VOLVO S60 2.0 T4 [190] Business Edition Lux 4dr, Volvo warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, 17k, blue **£12995**

14 64 VOLVO XC60 2.0 D4 R-Design 5dr Geartronic, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, 45k, black, half-leather **£14495**

16 16 VOLVO XC60 D4 [190] SE Lux Nav 5dr Geartronic, sat nav, cruise, 31k, white, full leather..... **£17995**

18 68 VOLVO XC60 2.0 D4 R-Design 5dr Automatic AWD, Volvo warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, 19"alloys, 13k, met red, half-leather..... **£26995**

16 66 MERCEDES A180d SE 5dr, reverse camera, Bluetooth, 16k, grey, full leather

£13495 NO BUYERS FEES

19 68 MERCEDES CLA 220 AMG Line Night Edition 4Matic Estate Tip Auto, Mercedes warranty Feb 2022, sat nav, rev camera, 9k, black, half leather

£23995 NO BUYERS FEES

17 67 TOYOTA CH-R 1.8 Hybrid Dynamic 5dr CVT automatic, Toyota warranty Oct 2022, sat nav, heated seats, 9k,

£21995 NO BUYERS FEES

16 16 VOLVO V40 2.0 T2 R-Design 5dr, cruise, 17"alloys, 33k, blue

£9995 NO BUYERS FEES

16 65 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER 2.0 PHEV GX4h 5dr Auto, sat nav, heated seats, met brown, full leather

£15995 NO BUYERS FEES

17 67 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.2 DiG-T N-Connecta 5dr, Nissan warranty Jan 2021, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 20k,

£13995 NO BUYERS FEES

14 64 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER SPORT 3.0 SDV6 HSE 5dr Auto, sat nav, heated seats, 56k, silver, full leather

£26995 NO BUYERS FEES

18 68 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line Premium 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021,

£27995 NO BUYERS FEES

18 18 MERCEDES E350 E AMG Line Premium 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Aug 2021, command sat

£26995 NO BUYERS FEES

17 17 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI GT Edition 3dr, pan roof, sat nav, 33k, white, half leather

£13795 NO BUYERS FEES

18 68 RENAULT CLIO 1.5 dCi 90 Iconic 5dr, Renault warranty Dec 2022, sat nav, 17"alloys, 19k, red

£9995 NO BUYERS FEES

16 66 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 ED4 SE 5dr, heated seats, 18"alloys, 30k, choice, full leather

£17995 NO BUYERS FEES

18 68 PEUGEOT 208 1.2 PureTech 82 Tech Edition 5dr, Peugeot warranty Nov 2021, sat nav, reverse cam, 11k, black

£10295 NO BUYERS FEES

17 66 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 CDTi ecoFLEX SRi Nav 5dr (7-Seater) sat nav, heated seats. Grey, full leather

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15 **LEXUS RX 450h v6 Auto Hybrid** In black, 82,000 miles, sat nav, camera etc **£17,495**
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15 **KIA OPTIMA 3 ECO-DYNA 1.7 CRDi 5dr** in silver, 26,000 miles, pan sunroof, huge spec.....**£10,995**
63 **VW TIGUAN MATCH 2.0 TDi Auto 4-Motion** In met grey, 40,000 miles, high spec.....**£10,795**
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17 **SSANGONG TIVOLI 1.6 Diesel EX** In met grey, 26,000 miles with leather trim **£8,995**
14 **VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.7 CDTi SE AUTOMATIC** In black, 20,000 miles **£8,995**
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65 **SUZUKI SOUL 1.6 CONNECT 5dr** In red, 19,000 miles, Rev-camera, A/C etc.....**£8,695**
14 **KIA CARENS 2 1.7 CRDi Automatic 7 seater** In blue, 43,000 miles, bluetooth, PS.....**£8,695**
65 **HONDA CIVIC 1.6i-D Tec SR 5dr** In twilight blue, 75,000 miles, sat nav, leather etc **£8,495**
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64 **CITROEN C4 CACTUS 1.2 FLAIR PURE-TECH** In met grey, 12,000 miles, 1 owner **£7,995**
13 **HONDA CIVIC I-VTEC ES-T 1.8cc** in Woodland Green, 38,000 miles, Sat Nav, folding mirrors.....**£7,695**
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09 **MERCEDES E350 CDi Sport Coupe Auto** in met grey with tan leather, 89,000 miles, Sat Nav.....**£7,495**
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62 **RENAULT CLIO 1.1 DYNAMIQUE TOM-TOM 5dr** In white, low mileage, 2 owners, sat nav **£3,995**
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63 **VW POLO 1.2 MATCH 5de** in red, 41,000 miles, alloys, A/C etc **£6,495**
62 **HONDA CIVIC 2.2 Diesel ES 5dr** In met bronze, 49,000 miles, low running costs.....**£6,495**
18 **DACIA SANDERO 1.0 AMBIANCE 5dr** In white, 14,000 miles, full service history **£6,495**
15 **KIA RIO SR7 1SG 1.2 CRDi 5dr** In white, 42,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH **£6,495**
13 **FORD FIESTA 1.6 ZETEC 5dr Automatic** In silver, 54,000 miles **£6,495**
64 **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 Limited Edition 3dr** Yellow with black roof, 22,000 miles, A/C etc.....**£6,295**
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62 **SUZUKI SX4 1.6 Automatic SZ4** In met grey, low mileage, example at.....**£4,995**
16 **FIAT PANDA 1.2 Easy** In white, 1 owner, 66,000 miles, fantastic value **£4,995**
13 **HONDA JAZZ SI 1.3cc** In black,, 60,000 miles, 5dr, very nice spec **£4,995**
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Aruba Gold with tan leather, 37,000 miles, pan roof, etc & service plan
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'Rhoose Rhino' continues good start to his boxing career

JAY Munn, the Rhoose-based boxer, brought his 'barmy army' to the Vale Sports Arena on Saturday night as he earned his second win, and his third decision win in the professional ranks by defeating an experienced yet awkward opponent in Victor Edagha.

The 21-year-old Munn was looking to repeat the success he had last time he fought in Cardiff's Vale Sports Arena where he claimed a convincing victory to kickstart his debut.

Fast-forward six months from that match and the 'Rhoose Rhino' had returned for another four rounds.

The first was used as a feeling out process for the local favourite as he sized up his opponent using jabs and feints. He stepped on the front foot and assumed the role as aggressor by forcing the much taller Edagha on the ropes at times. There was no key moment inside the opening three minutes that separated either boxer, but Munn did well in landing single or two shot combinations, despite being caught by a soaring overhand right just seconds before the end.

Munn remained unpredictable throughout the second-round, mixing shots from the body to the head. He did this with accuracy, using his heavy, right hand whilst staying out of distance from the wild lead left hook of his opponent. The crowd erupted in support of Munn when his Italian rival circled onto his heavy right hand which connected cleanly to his ribs. A shot which echoed around the venue.

Edagha's nervous energy was apparent from the first bell, flinching and springing out of Munn's feints. The Rhoose boy had to bide his time and be patient with the shots he picked. This paid dividends as he dropped Edagha in the third round with a precise right-handed headshot which followed from well-measured jabs.

As the fourth round ensued, the super welterweights rose off their stools prepared to empty the tank for the final round. Munn seemed in finer fettle than his opponent, even after piling on the pressure from the front foot in the three previous rounds.

The 32-year-old visitor was kept guessing by the 'Rhoose Rhino's' unpredictability as he continued to tease punches to the head or mid-section by dipping up and down with his head. His counter shots were clean and affective and he followed up with them by closing his opponent's long distance and coming onto the inside. This was beneficial for Munn as he bruised Edagha with wincing body shots from both hands.

As fatigue set in, the fight became even more one-sided. The Italian fighter's once light footed unorthodox approach declined into a moping, back footed posture. His opponent maintained his relentless energy though as the crowd stayed chanting his name. Munn stayed on the front foot until the final bell rung. His performance was eventually honoured as his hand was raised much to the Arena's delight.

Report by Max Taylor

Cottrell Park's new lady captain's 'drives in' day

A rainy day for the lady captain's drive in at Cottrell Park GC!

ON March 5 the Ladies of Cottrell Park golf club came together to welcome their new ladies' captain Helen Evans, at her Drive In.

She managed a decent drive in spite of the pouring rain. A nine-hole Texas Scramble competition followed. Fortunately the weather improved although the muddy fairways were a real challenge.

The winners were Chris Evans, Regina Drew and Trish Roe with 44.6 points, runners-up Patricia Davies, Rose Dawson and Rowena McArtney with 49.3 points.

The ladies who were not courageous enough to play joined them for lunch, where Helen was clapped in – as is the tradition. There was a present on the table for each member from the new captain.

After the meal, Helen presented prizes for the competition. Lorraine Pointon-Bell, previous past captain presented Tina, past captain with a golf bag and thanked her for all hard work making it an enjoyable year.

Helen gave Tina a lovely photograph album as a record of her year. She then thanked everyone for coming to the lunch and said she was sure she would get the continued support from the committee and members that Tina had enjoyed

CB

Barry and District Clubs League

THE results from the Barry and District Clubs are as follows:

Crib Division 1: Cup semi-finals; Rhoose Social beat Romilly Railway; Cadoxton Cons beat Liberals.

Skittles Division 1: West End C 7, Barries Boys 0; King William XII 5.5, West End C 1.5; Liberals A 0, Rhoose Social C 7; Allsorts 6, Barry Town FC 1.

League: West End D 112.0, Rhoose Social C 109.0, Sea View Exiles 97.0, Rugby Club 87.5, West End C 85.0, Rhoose Social A 83.5, Allsorts 82.5, Barry Town FC

81.0, King William XII 79.5, Barries Boys 76.0, Liberals C 70.5, Slammers 64.5, Rhoose Social B 55.0, Rhoosters 53.5, Cambrian Flyers 48.0, Liberals A 47.5.

Snooker Division 1: Cup quarter finals: Penarth Cons A beat Rhoose Social C; Cadoxton Cons B beat Wyndham Cons A; Cadoxton Cons Z beat Harbour B; West End C beat Penarth Cons B.

Snooker Division 2: Cup quarter finals: West End B beat Market Street B; Harbour A beat Market Street C; Market Street A beat Savoy C.

View all results and league tables at www.barryleagues.co.uk.

JW

Sunshine and hail greet the senior golfers at St Mary's GC

WITH an amber weather warning through the night St Mary's Senior Section's main competition of the week fell victim to a closure of the course.

Two days later, and with the weather much improved, a short field of just 11 played a Texas Scramble competition over 10 of the driest holes.

The two teams of four and a single team of three set out in some very welcome sunshine but, sadly, this did not last and the players contended with two severe bouts of hail before reaching the final green.

The four-ball team of former captain Dave Hughes, Eddie Fothergill and the Hatton brothers, Roger and Phil, secured the victory with a net score of 34.

Mike Tayler and Norman Lloyd teamed up, together with Jeff Perkins, to claim second place with 35.

NL

Sully Centurions are busy making plans for the new cricket season

SULLY Centurions Cricket Club have been in existence since 1955, making this year their 65th anniversary, having played at Burnham Avenue in Sully, for more than 50 years.

During this time, Centurions have been one of the most successful clubs in Wales, culminating in the unforgettable 2004 season when the club won the Premier League, the Welsh Cup and that incredible result of winning the Village Cup at the home of cricket, Lord's. That year, Centurions came out on top of more than 900 clubs who entered the competition.

During the past six seasons, the club has been restructured and now runs two league XIs on Saturdays as well as a midweek 20-over side, playing as Fontygary CC, and play their home games in Rhoose, as the community council in Sully do not allow 20-over matches at Burnham Avenue.

The club would very much like to run a 3rd XI again and build up the junior sides. Over the past two years, the club has run the All Stars programme for five to eight-year-olds. If anyone wishes to join the club, we can guarantee that everyone will get a game. Ability is less important than enthusiasm and a desire to be involved. Players of all ages and abilities are welcomed, both male and female. If there are enough female members, the club will be happy to help set up a ladies' side.

Non-playing members and supporters are also welcome, as are qualified coaches for both senior and junior players. The club is also prepared to pay for members to go on coaching courses.

Indoor nets are at Colcot Sports Centre, Barry, on Monday nights at 8.30pm, contact the club via email *centurioncricket@hotmail.co.uk* or call D Sylvester (chairman) on 07717 864694; or R Griffett (secretary) on 07854 983423.

MF

Barry and District Men's Skittles League

Division 1

Park Lads 248 (D Summerell 28), Posties 262 (M Churchill 29); Merrymen 280 (A Cockram 27), Bunker Boys 257 (B Hewitson 29); Billy Whizz 321 (B Alldred 32), Geest 268 (P Hunt 28); Blue Monkey 274 (A Penberthy 29), British Rail 247 (K Brown 29); 49ers 297 (J Mcinery, R Bolt, S Baggott 28), Sea View 265 (A Elston 29).

League points: Merrymen 32, 49ers 26, Blue Monkey 24, Billy Whizz 24, Cavaliers 22, Willie Wombles 20, Bunker Boys 13, Posties 12, Park Lads 11, Sea View 10, British Rail 8, Geest 8.

Division 2

Tynny Lads 292 (S Germon 31), Castle Boys 268 (G Marks 28); Cannon Balls 287 (A Seviour 29), Mighty Dockers 297 (D Morgan 30); Barry Park B 253 (N Bowen 29), Witchill Poachers 239 (Rob Connell 24); Hairy Lemons 273 (S Russell, R Parfitt, J Buckler 25), KP Rejects 269 (M Dando 27); Exiles 271 (A Clissett 30), Colcot Boys 275 (J Mccann 30).

League points: Mighty Dockers 28, Tynny Lads 26, Cannon Balls 22, KP Rejects 22, H Bells 20, Park Rangers 17, Barry Park B 17, Colcot Boys 16, Hairy Lemons 15, Witchill Poachers 13, Castle Boys 8, Exiles 4.

Division 3

Billy Flyers 277 (N Spear 35), Cocoa Nuts 262 (S Evans, J Green, R Green 26); Witchill Nomads 320 (S Grant 34), BP Breakaways 337 (Jack Rees, P Gardner, E Lovell, D Jeffries 31); Abercrete 289 (O Wong, M Watts 30), Billy Bluebirds 238 (A James 27); CUD 240 (B Jones 27), Royalists 272 (A Evans 29).

League points: Alternatives 20, BP Breakaways 20, Billy Flyers 20, Cocoa Nuts 19, Royalists 19, Ex Servicemen 18, Billy Bluebirds 16, Witchill Nomads 7, Abercrete 4 CUD 3. See results at www.barryleagues.co.uk.

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Cowbridge Darts suspended – but they'll be back

ON March 10, a full programme of league matches was played.

The Hairy Farmers came back from 9-6 down after the singles, by winning all three doubles games to beat the Edmondes A 12-10. In another close match, the Red Lion Inn also staged a doubles comeback, but in this case the Edmondes C just held on to win 11-10.

The top two teams both won, the Highwayman Inn beat the Victoria Inn 12-9 and the Edmondes B beat the Farmers Arms 16-5. The Town Hall Criers had a bye.

Present league standings after 13 weeks are: Edmondes B (175 points), Highwayman Inn (158), Hairy Farmers (132), Victoria Inn (124), Farmers Arms (117), Edmondes A (116), Town Hall Criers (102), Edmondes C (96) and Red Lion Inn (80).

On Tuesday, March 24 the Edmondes B host the Town Hall Criers, the Hairy Farmers host the Victoria Inn, the Red Lion Inn host the Farmers Arms and the Edmondes C host the Edmondes A. The Highwayman Inn have a bye.

In response to Government guidelines, issued on Monday March 16, aimed at slowing the spread of the COVID-19 virus we are suspending the darts league until further notice.

For further information, email Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found at www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Funding boost for Bridgend Dragons

A Bridgend netball team has secured funding from a regional housebuilder to purchase new training kit, match dresses and new equipment.

The Dragons Netball Team has received £1,000 from Persimmon Homes West Wales as part of its Community Champions scheme. Each month the housebuilder donates up to £1,000 each to two groups or individuals in the local area.

The netball team are hoping to enter the Welsh Netball League this coming September and will require new equipment and kit.

Rachel Brown, who applied for the funding on behalf of Dragons Netball Team, said: "We are delighted to receive the donation from Persimmon Homes.

"The club has tried raising money for kit and equipment through bake sales, ladies' nights and numerous raffles and donations such as this one are a real game changer.

"The new equipment and kits will hold us in good stead to compete in the Welsh Netball League later this year."

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Over the coming weeks your Gem will be working in print and online to keep you up to date with what's going on in your area - pick one up or login now and keep in touch
glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Top rugby league role for Llantwit Major man Mark

LLANTWIT Major based Mark Jones has been reappointed as the Wales Rugby League National Development Manager after four and half years away from the role.

The 49-year old first joined WRL in 2009 and spent six years in the National Development Manager role where he headed up school, junior and community development, was the team manager of both Wales and Great Britain students, played a major role in the AASE Academy that produced Regan Grace and other professionals, and made pioneering trips to Sierra Leone on behalf of the Rugby League European Federation.

In the autumn of 2015, he transferred his skills over to Coleg y Cymoedd where he founded and is still running the rugby league academy at the college, with one of his recent successes coming through the system being Kieran Lewis who has recently signed for Super League club, Huddersfield Giants.

Jones will continue in this role at Coleg y Cymoedd, and combine it with working at Wales Rugby League, with an official academy player pathway partnership on the cards between the two organisations.

Recently, he has won his first battle against Myeloma, a rare incurable form of cancer, and has raised more than £10,000 for the Myeloma UK and Velindre Hospital charities, thanks to his charity virtual surf. He is currently in remission and hopefully has no more battles for a few years yet.

Jones said: "I am delighted to return to Wales Rugby League to my former role as National Development Manager. I'll be a coach educator, safeguarding lead officer and manage the player pathways and community programmes. My enthusiasm for the game has not diminished and I'm looking forward to getting stuck into the role again and introducing Rugby League to the future generation of Welsh internationals."

Wales Rugby League CEO Gareth Kear (*pictured right with Mark*) said: "We've been through an extensive recruitment process for this role through Sport Wales. As a previous holder of the role, Mark may be have been known to us, but it was a very strong list of candidates applying. There were a number of good interviewees and Mark still came out on top and I think he'll be good for WRL once again."

To apply to join the academy at Coleg y Cymoedd, visit *www.cymoedd.ac.uk/en/course/33853/level-3-in-sport-rugby-league*